Routes4U

*Feasibility Study
on a Mountain Heritage Route
in the Alpine Region*

Routes4U Project

ROUTES4U

FEASIBILITY STUDY ON A MOUNTAIN HERITAGE ROUTE IN THE ALPINE REGION

November 2019

MOUNTAIN CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE ALPINE REGION

INTRODUCTION

In December 2013, the Council of the European Union invited the European Commission to elaborate a EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP). The Commission, in cooperation with member states, prepared this strategy, taking into account the experience from the previous EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR), EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR).

On 27 November 2015, the Council of the European Union endorsed the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region. The strategy aims at economic and social prosperity of the Alpine Region through an intensified cooperation on key opportunities and challenges. The focus lays on complementarity of actions and structures rather than duplication of existing actions and structures[1]. Areas that request a transnational cooperation are identified in relation to economic globalisation, demographic trends, climate change, energy challenge as well as there is given due consideration to their specific geographical position as a transit region.
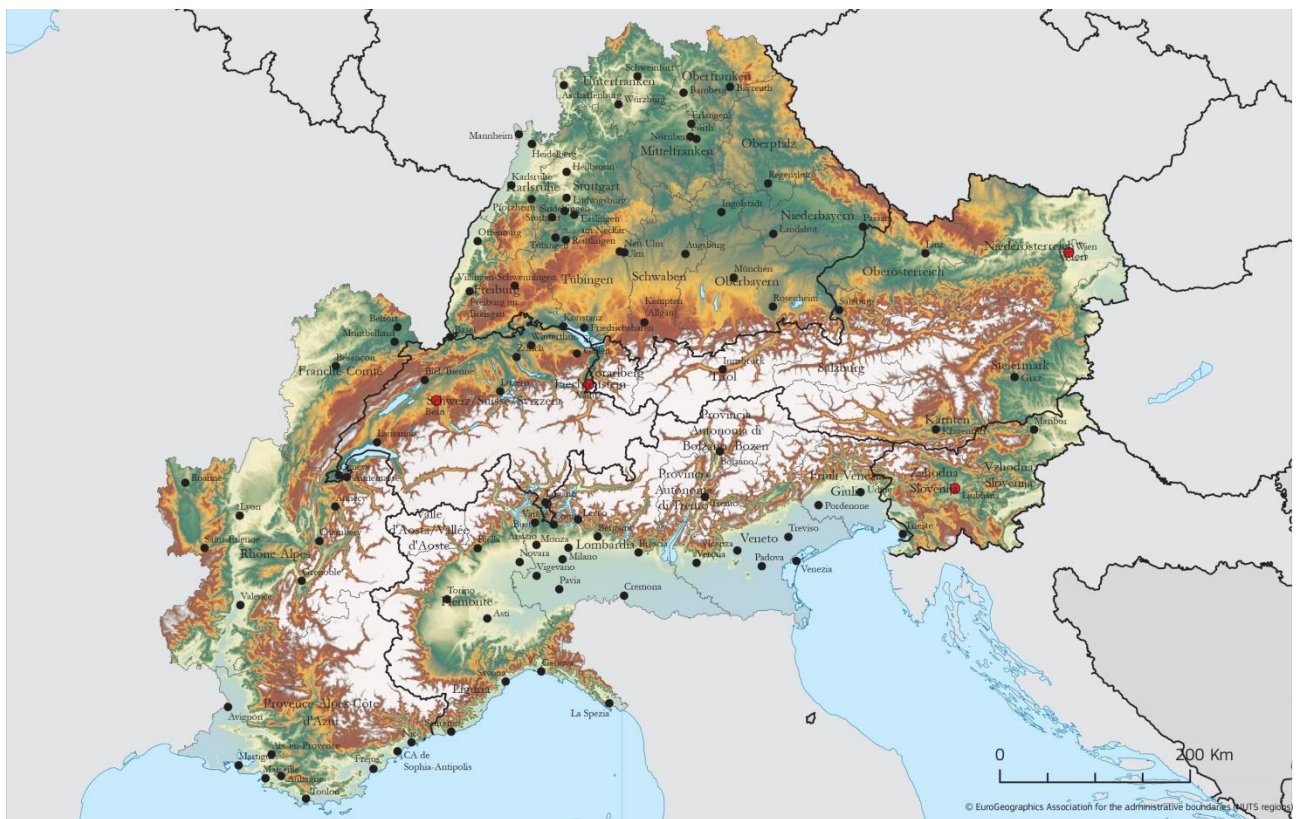
In the framework of the joint programme of the European Union and Council of Europe "Routes4U"[2], Routes4U aims to create synergies between the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and the four EU macro-regional Strategies (Adriatic and Ionian, Alpine, Baltic Sea and Danube).

The Cultural Routes Programme fosters regional development through its members at local and regional level, through sustainable European networks of history, art and landscape worth exploring, particularly in less known destinations. Both these topics and localities fit very well with the mission

---

[1] Action Plan, Communication From The Commission To The European Parliament, The Council, The European Conomic And Social Comittee And The Comittee Of The Regions concerning the European Union Strategy for the Alpine Region, {COM(2015) 366 final}, Brussels, 28.7.2015 SWD(2015) 147 final.

[2] www.coe.int/routes4u

and activities promoted by the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) of the European Commission.[3]

The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe are transnational cultural cooperation networks that involve local people to protect and promote shared heritage, strengthen sustainable cultural tourism and regional development and foster transnational cultural cooperation[4]. Macro-regional strategies bring together regions from member states and third countries located in the same geographical area, with a view to jointly address common challenges and achieve economic, social and territorial cohesion.

For the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) and for increase activities of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, the project Routes4U has promoted in the November 2018 a call for grant for support exemplary actions Cultural Routes in the Alpine Region. In particular to encourage actions aimed at "increase the economic potential of strategic sectors" (Action Groups 2)[5] "preserve and valorize natural resources, including water and cultural resources" (Action Groups 6)[6].

---

[3] Stefano Dominioni, Routes4U project interview, February 2018, available at www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes/-/routes4u-interview-stefano-dominioni, accessed September 2019.

[4] www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes/home

[5] The overall mission of Action Group 2 is to identify key Alpine economic sectors which would beneficiate from action at macro-regional level, and to implement concrete measures to strengthen their economic and social environment. The added value will be to lead to a better utilization of Alpine specific resources and develop potential in the identified strategic sectors with a special focus on the development opportunities for SMEs within the Alpine Macro. www.alpine-region.eu/.

[6] Action Group 6 aims at preserving and sustainably valorizing the Alpine natural and cultural heritage to enable also future generations to enjoy the unique living space of the Alps. www.alpine-region.eu/.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the framework of the Routes4U Project and of its implementation in the ALP, the mountain heritage was identified as a priority heritage element, to be promoted in the framework of a new cultural route to be developed (according to the Council of Europe criteria and standards). No Cultural Route dedicated to the mountain heritage of the Alps exists so far as certified Cultural Route of the Council of Europe or as candidate cultural route promoting the heritage of the Alpine Region.

The Council of Europe is currently implementing the Project Routes4U on fostering regional development through transnational cultural routes, heritage policies and practices.

In that context, the feasibility study on a cultural route dedicated to the mountain heritage of the Alpine Region (ALP) - Via Alpina, Mountaineering villages - , is placed.

The methodology used for this feasibility study was survey, desk research, stakeholder analysis and assessment of available resources in relation to the description of tasks and the EUSALP context. The findings are analysed and presented in this study. In order to examine the existing and potential destinations and their relevance for the route, especially in less-known destinations, the expert worked closely with the main stakeholders, members of association and EUSALP local institution, and working alongside them, recommended national experts, to design an appropriate analytical framework. In this aspect this study required an extensive and scientifically based methodological approach.

This study should provide a first step towards an itinerary of suitable sites, mountain and mountaineering villages, and destinations in all countries of the Alpine Region (EUSALP).

The identified sites and destinations should:
1. Reflect the diversities but also shared heritage of the ALP
2. Be varied in terms of their nature (archaeological sites, museums, villages and towns, associations…)
3. Has to be given to the involvement of remote, off the beaten track areas and to the countries which are less developed in terms of Cultural Routes usually excluded from tourism flows in the Alps.

Based on the description of tasks in the Contract for the performance of the Feasibility Study, the report should be divide in 4 points:
1. Executive summary providing the background information on the study
2. Analysis of the state of the art of the mountain heritage of ALP: geographical distribution, relevance for the different countries….
3. Analysis of the state of the art of the entities networks managing the Via Apina and the Mountaineering villages
4. Recommendations on the assistance which is needed in order to support the creation of a network taking responsibility for a cultural routes dedicated to mountain heritage
5. Annexes

After an analysis of the "state-of-the-art" on tangible and intangible alpine heritage, an inventory of cultural heritage in the Alpine Region and general remarks on its research and presentation status has been compiled (Chapter 1). The selection of sites, tried to keep the goals of referring as much as possible to the whole Alpine Region and reflecting the diversities but also shared heritage of it. The sites and destinations are varied in their nature and involve remote, off-the-beaten track areas (Ch. 2). The analysis of the state of the art also includes the entities networks of the Alpine Cultural Heritage, with related managing authorities (Ch. 3).

The Alpine heritage is to be placed at the centre of a proposed Cultural Route in order to improve its protection on an international level and to be able to provide regions with an additional tourist offer.

The Ch. 4 (Recommendations on the assistance which is needed in order to support the creation of a network…) gives clear recommendations for further steps and on the assistance that is needed in the creation of a network for an Alpine Heritage cultural route. The recommendations should help to support the basic components in the development of a cultural route.

Three Annexes provide an inventory of Alpine Cultural Heritage: lists of UNESCO site, Global Geoparks (Annex 1), and an abstract of the initially proposed and executed methodological design of the study (Annex 2), references and data sources for the research (Annex 3).

The research took place during the period July (end of) – October 2019.

METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

The study, in an attempt to lay the correct foundations for the identification of the broad theme of the Alpine cultural heritage, documents the state of this specific natural and anthropic heritage within an international context, highlighting the large number of sites that have joined the UNESCO World Heritage List, the parks of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) established in 2004, under the umbrella of UNESCO, and the sites that have joined the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme, as well as those that adhere to the Cultural Routes recognised by the Council of Europe.
This thorough knowledge of the current state of the Alpine Cultural Heritage, obtained following the in-depth survey carried out on the actual state of the wide Alpine territory, constituted the first step of the feasibility study. This cognition has made it possible to identify areas that are part of the immense cultural heritage and also to define guidelines for the identification of representative themes and places that can become part of a new European Cultural Route.

The Alpine cultural heritage is very heterogeneous; it combines aspects of a community life, language, traditions, ways of living, food, economy and savoir-faire, knowledge of the territory, construction building, the sustainability of mountain living and many other aspects. All this, represents a heritage to be preserved and enhanced with policies of protection and incentives to maintain the Alpine culture and the communities active in the territories.

Cultural Routes are located in the Alpine macro-region which is composed by the regions situated in seven countries (Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovenia and Switzerland)[7]. The Cultural Routes in the Alpine macro-region cover a wide field of themes related to their tangible and intangible heritage. It has to be underlined that most Cultural Routes are tran-sectorial networks and as such, touch upon different themes which will be presented in the following:
- Religious themes;
- Arts and architecture;
- European personalities;
- Agricultural landscape and food production;
- Movement of people in Europe.

How to represent all this in a new Cultural Route? How to identify the prevailing and pre-eminent themes to constitute the thematic axis of the Cultural Route?
The methodological choice carried out in this study was aimed at identifying possible main thread, traces of a tangible and intangible path that unites regions that are now politically different but that share common historical cultural heritage.

It was therefore not decided to identify other monothematic topics, a choice that would not have been easy, given the multitude of possible themes in the Alpine context, but to consider, as a result of the knowledge acquired, a common heritage on a large scale that manifests itself, among other things, in the places of living, work and leisure.

Alpine settlements today are clearly divided into distinct categories: the villages transformed and renovated as a result of alpine winter and summer sports, the places related to holidays to recreation

---

[7] In the following, the term "Cultural Route" is used to describe the Cultural Routes certified by the Council of Europe, in accordance with Resolutions CM/Res(2013)66 and CM/Res(2013)66, see Annex. Only some parts of France belong to the Alpine macro-region: Franche-Comté, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Rhône-Alpes; only some parts of Germany belong to the Alpine macro-region: Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria; only some parts of Italy belong to the Alpine macro-region: Bozen, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Liguria, Lombardy, Piedmont, Trento, Valle d'Aosta and Veneto. Feasibility study. The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and the Alpine Region (EUS ALP), March 2019.

and health at the beginning of the twentieth century, and the wide assets of villages abandoned for the emigration of the last century and still in the same condition as a result of a failure of serious policies on the territory aimed at the repopulation of the Alpine areas.

In this context, an increasing number of projects and initiatives have been aimed at renovating and revitalising these villages from an ecological perspective, with particular attention to economic and environmental sustainability, in full compliance with the indications and rules coming from European legislation. Numerous projects have been aimed at seeking to make mountain areas attractive to new inhabitants as well, favouring digital diffusion thus trying to reduce the technological gap with the city.

Other projects, on the other hand, were aimed at maintaining the intangible cultural heritage, such as the traditions of cooking and food, the expertise in mountain and pasture farming, in an attempt to revitalize the economy and rebuild the communities. The result is a rehabilitation of the building, not always wise and respectful, aimed at providing space and housing to new mountain inhabitants.

The regions belonging to the historical culture of the Walser and Occitan population, as far as Western and Central Europe are concerned (France, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Liechtenstein), have been identified as possible strands of the tangible and intangible Alpine heritage. These areas, where historically a culture so deeply rooted and defined in its identity has been established, meet along the axis of ancient history, late Roman period, the other regions that are part of EUSALP.

The choice was, therefore, to identify an ancient existing road layout and outlined in Roman times, the Via Claudia. Today this route, still used and preserved in many places, is the subject of a careful tourist enhancement, reserved for users careful to the delicate balance of the mountain scenery.

Along this ancient axis, much of the history of the Eastern and Central European regions (Italy, Germany, Switzerland and Austria and, in part, Slovenia) unfolds, bound together by a very ancient history and by a heterogeneous and extraordinarily rich cultural heritage.

These choices, based on the identification of a character strongly entrenched in Alpine history, make it possible to weave themes and build networks of cultural routes that weave together the many common features of the historical cultural heritage of this part of Europe.

I. ANALYSIS OF THE STATE OF THE ART OF THE MOUNTAIN HERITAGE OF ALP

ALPINE REGION AND THE EUROPEAN UNION STRATEGY FOR THE ALPINE REGION (EUSALP)

The Alpine Region contains five EU member states: Austria, France, Germany, Italy, and Slovenia. Furthermore, the region contains two non-EU countries: Liechtenstein and Switzerland. These countries differ in terms of their economic, demographic and social development. These seven countries represent 48 Regions: Austria (Burgenland, Kärnten, Niederösterreich, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg, Wien), France (Auvergne-RhôneAlpes, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, Provence-Alpes-Côted'Azur), Germany (BadenWürtemberg, Bayern), Italy (Friuli Venezia Giulia, Liguria, Lombardia, Piemonte, Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano, Provincia Autonoma di Trento, Valle d'Aosta, Veneto), Switzerland (Aargau, Appenzell Ausserrhoden, Appenzell Innerrhoden, Basel-Landschaf, Basel-Stadt, Bern, Freiburg, Genf, Glarus, Graubünden, Jura, Luzern, Neuenburg, Nidwalden, Obwalden, Schafausen, Schwyz, Solothurn, St. Gallen, Tessin, Thurgau, Uri, Waadt, Wallis, Zug, Zürich).

The Alpine Region represents the largest preserved natural area of mountain range in Europe with unique geographical and natural features. The protection of the ecosystem and the preservation of natural resources as well as tangible and intangible cultural heritage is an immanent task for all countries of the Alpine Region. This includes the mitigation of negative effects of climate change such as loss of biodiversity and deterioration of the living conditions of the population[8].

The mountain area of the Alpine Region hold a double burden: It is characterized by low population density, at the same time ageing populations and decline of population. This decline of population results in a loss of economic attractiveness and thus economic development. It is also characterized by missing infrastructures that contribute to the further abandonment of these areas which effects their biodiversity conservation and protection of the tangible and intangible culture. With regards to the economic development, the Alpine Region contains some of the economically most dynamic areas of the European Union. "The Alpine Region is one of the richest areas in the world and among the most economically dynamic, innovative and competitive areas in Europe. However, significant economic differences still exist within the territories, requiring a common response"[9]

Cooperation structures are historically well developed in the Alpine area; they are fragmented in terms of topics, policy levels and instruments, territories and stakeholders, thus leading to some overlapping and discontinuities. Strengthened coordination between the existing structures, and a better integration between public policies, and between public policies and private initiatives, is necessary and would benefit the area.

Objectives Following the recommendations from the EUSALP report on the added value of macro-regional strategies, the Commission has identified the following objectives which aim to offer:
1. Fair access to job opportunities by building on the high competitiveness of the Region; 2. Sustainable internal and external accessibility; 3. A more inclusive environmental framework and renewable and reliable energy solutions for the future; 4. A sound macro-regional governance model for the Region (to improve cooperation and the coordination of action).

Within these four objectives, nine actions have been defined that are addressed within so called Action Groups. The Action Groups are composed of representatives from national, regional and local administrations.
Objective 1: Fair access to job opportunities, building on the high competiveness of the Region

---

[8] Analysis of certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in the Alpine Region, ROUTES4U FEASIBILITY STUDY The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and the Alpine Region (EUSALP) March 2019.
[9] European Commission: Commission Staff Working Document. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions concerning the European Union Strategy for the Alpine Region. COM(2015) 366 final, p. 4.

- Action 1: To develop an effective research and innovation ecosystem;
- Action 2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors;
- Action 3: To improve the adequacy of labour market, education and training in these strategic sectors;

Objective 2: Sustainable internal and external accessibility to all

- Action 4: To promote inter-modality and interoperability in freight and passengers transport;
- Acton 5: To connect people electronically and promote accessibility to public services;

Objective 3: A more inclusive environmental framework for all and renewable and reliable energy solutions for the future

- Action 6: To preserve and valorise natural resources, including water and cultural resources;
  Action 7: To develop ecological connectivity in the EUSALP territory;
- Action 8: To improve risk management and to better manage climate change including major natural risks prevention;
- Action 9: To make the territory a model region for energy efficiency and renewable energy

European protection of cultural heritage and sustainable tourism

Culture and tourism are topics that are not addressed through a dedicated Action Group, but as subthemes of existing Action Groups:

Action Group 2: "To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors" and Action Group 6: "To preserve and valorise natural resources, including water and cultural resources" deal with topics related to Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.

Action Group 2 addresses as a thematic priority health Tourism (coordinated by the Region of Salzburg, AT).

In particular the Action Group 6 aims at initiating activities for the promotion and marketing of sustainably produced food and forest products as a way to maintain cultural and ecosystem services.

"The use of the resources and the exploitation of their potential need to be carried out in a proportionate way. Against this background, this action has a twofold character. On the one hand, it will aim to reinforce the Alpine natural and cultural resources as assets of a high-quality living area. On the other hand, it will pursue the goal to valorise the existing natural and cultural resources".

Europe's rich cultural heritage can be further explored, bringing thorough opportunities for economic and social cohesion, and EU external relations. These are core elements in the New European Agenda for Culture. Routes4U Project fosters regional development through the Cultural Routes. EUSALP includes 23 Cultural Routes crossing 7 countries that have in common strengths and weaknesses. The Dolomites can witness this double faceted reality. In 2009 UNESCO listed the Dolomites as a World Heritage Site. The prestige gained by World Heritage listed properties acts as a catalyst for strengthening the sense of responsibility of the populations towards the sites they have in their custody. Thus they are required to have a management strategy setting out precise conservation measures and control mechanisms. The alpine region is where we can listen our spirituality; and also where testing a more and more sustainable development, from the social, economic and environmental perspectives.

ALPINE CULTURAL HERITAGE: TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE

Issues such as cultural landscapes in Alpine space are difficult to be defined, due to their complex structure as an open and evolving set. The UNESCO perspective was assumed as a reference to focus more precisely the target of the project. The UNESCO's definition for cultural heritage focuses both on tangible and intangible values; it is related to individual elements as well as to the cultural heritage system as a whole, composed of monuments, built heritage, pieces of art, physical territorial elements but also of history, traditions, socio-economic models.

In the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (The Hague, 1954), it is stated one of the very first definition of cultural heritage, aiming to indicate something that transcends the materiality of the good and its economic value, i.e. a sort of interest, superior, of humanity to the conservation of all the contributions that each people has made to the "culture of the world".

One of the main features of the Alpine Region is its outstanding natural and cultural heritage. Cultural aspects such as language diversity in the Alps are unique compared to the rest of EU (many isolated settlements with original languages such as Occitan, Franco-Provençal, Walser, Ladin, Friulian, etc.). It is therefore consistent with the specific natural and cultural characteristics of the Alps that there are also already several UNESCO World Heritage Sites and several are pending. Important parts of the natural richness of the Alps are the rivers, lakes and glaciers, which make this Region the 'water tower' of Europe. This natural storage mechanism benefits some very important rivers in Europe, including the Rhine, Danube, Po and Rhône. These four rivers flow through 15 countries, including ten EU member states.

Cultural heritage values depend on the presence and the quality of many elements. In particular they are considered as: An essential part of the territorial heritage, object of important investments in cataloguing, conservation and depletion prevention because of its essence values; Important productive assets for the alpine territory: following such an approach expenditures in cultural heritage conservation and governance become investments for territorial promotion at the local level and competitiveness development.

In the field of cultural heritage, the use of Alpine local products, such as herbs in cosmetics, pharmaceutical products and other products using agricultural raw materials is already practised, for example many multinational cosmetics companies market products containing Alpine herbs.
However, there is still scope to find innovative ways of valorising local products, benefiting local Alpine communities, ensuring the authentic nature of these products, and providing local business opportunities (research and innovation, manufacturing and marketing) and through the entire value chain enabling a stronger connection between the core Alpine area and the surrounding urbanised areas. In addition, valorisation is possible with regard to human settlements (art, buildings and churches). In this regard, exchange of experiences and best practices among stakeholders involved in these sectors is essential. This action addresses the high dynamic and large diversity within the Alpine area and at the same time provides a link between towns and rural, core and peri-Alpine areas. This applies especially with regard to potential linkages to economic aspects like the 'green economy' and the bio-economy. Concerning the cultural aspects of the action, it has to be underlined that they are closely linked to the 'regional identity' of the territory and are a particular asset of the territory in a European context. Furthermore, this action is of special importance because its

main characteristic is its coherent common approach in contrast to many isolated activities within the territory.

Intangible: Carnival, Food, Woodworks and Art, Music

The term 'cultural heritage' has changed content considerably in recent decades, partially owing to the instruments developed by UNESCO[10]. Cultural heritage does not end at monuments and collections of objects. It also includes traditions or living expressions inherited from our ancestors and passed on to our descendants, such as oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe or the knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts. While fragile, intangible cultural heritage is an important factor in maintaining cultural diversity in the face of growing globalization. An understanding of the intangible cultural heritage of different communities helps with intercultural dialogue, and encourages mutual respect for other ways of life.

The importance of intangible cultural heritage is not the cultural manifestation itself but rather the wealth of knowledge and skills that is transmitted through it from one generation to the next. The social and economic value of this transmission of knowledge is relevant for minority groups and for mainstream social groups within a State, and is as important for developing States as for developed ones.

Traditional, contemporary and living at the same time: intangible cultural heritage does not only represent inherited traditions from the past but also contemporary rural and urban practices in which diverse cultural groups take part.

Food cultural heritage is referred to the culinary traditions, the eating rituals, the agricultural practices, and knowledge, the recipes that the local communities hand on from generation to generation, innovating them. It has been possible to identify the common denominator of the Alpine food culture: it is formed by the traditional values that are the basis of food production. It has been possible to identify the common denominator of the Alpine food culture: it is formed by the traditional values that are the basis of food production: Let's think about the common use of goods and services, the mutual aid, the care for the territory and the respect of the natural balances, the sobriety and the heritage.

The exact dates of the **Carnival,** traditional popular celebrations, vary from one year to the next but they usually begin just before the Christian observance of Lent between February and early March. They generally start on a Thursday and end the following Tuesday, often

---

[10] *Text of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Paris, from 29 September to 17 October 2003. https://ich.unesco.org/en/what-is-intangible-heritage-00003.*

referred to as Shrove Tuesday or Mardi Gras. In some parts of the world, revellers on the day following carnival practice the ritual Burial of the Sardine[11].

Carnivals offer local adaptations and mixes of practices such as the wearing of masks and costumes and the holding of parades, and street parties. Carnival always suggests licence, revelling and a reversal of ordinary rules. They often feature pre-Christian elements and traditions such as the Roman Saturnalia and other festivities that honoured Dionysus or Bacchus in Antiquity. In the Americas, carnivals present elements of ancient celebrations rooted in pre-Columbian or African traditions. Anthropologists generally consider carnival to be an heir to the ancient celebrations of the end of winter and the imminent arrival of spring. In the Alpine regions many carnivals are still celebrated with ancient rituals: among these the Schemenlaufen, the carnival of Imst, in Austria, on the List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity[12]

Tangible: religious sites, architecture of refugees etc.

Settlements, typical villages and cultural landscape

When men chose to live and build their settlements on mountains, they did it recognizing the remarkable opportunity to take advantage of various resources that mountains were able to guarantee but at the same time they were aware of the necessity to adapt to each limit that living in a mountain environment could mean. The mountain territory guarantees, in fact, a reserve of precious resources like water, natural environments and a variety of landscapes, a lot of animal and vegetal species able to provide communities, a variety of resources supplied by geological features of the territories and by forests and woods.

However, there are some significant risks and obstacles often connected to the presence and the coexistence of these resources that bring men to be exposed to difficult situations as a consequence of an adverse morphology of the territories, extreme climate conditions, the impossibility of a complex processing of raw materials and the necessity to use most of the resources locally because of the difficulty to move people and goods all around these territories. The result of the necessity of finding a balance between needs and limitations has created a tendency to adapt that is possible to find surprisingly in different regions of the Alps.

The settlements were organized in order to have close buildings for satisfying a deep need of safety but also for take advantage of one another's heat losses. A stone basement was built to place useful rooms connected with farming activities (cattle shed, stables , storages and proper rooms where cheese was stored, etc.) where there were situation of steep slopes so that digging could be reduced. The upper floors more ventilated and salubrious were made of wood and hosted all the domestic rooms. Sometimes, the dwelling developed near or above the cattle shed in order to benefit from the heat produced by the livestock, a kind of radiant floor heating system. Moreover, the house orientation was studied to better exploit the solar exposition for the most used rooms and the dimension of windows was reduced in order to reduce the heat exchange: there were few (or no) windows on northern facades. To optimize the exposition to the sun and air, the buildings had complex galleries helping to reach each floor and in the same time accommodating local products like chestnuts, corn,

---

[11] https://en.unesco.org/news/carnivals-around-world
[12] Inscribed in 2012 (7.COM). https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/schemenlaufen-the-carnival-of-imst-austria-00726?RL=00726

wood and grain in order to dry them for the wind while protecting from the rainwater. Each building was built using the available raw materials like the stone from local quarries and wood often shaped roughly and used also as a flexible element (in place of iron) to resist to traction. The horizontal structures of the buildings were frequently filled with vegetal wastes (cob leaves) or wooden materials with a double function of filling and insulating but also with a very smart recycling philosophy.

The alpine culture presents thus interesting symbiosis between the moments connected to work and domestic life so that people can save the precious raw materials replaced with other cheap materials. This approach related to raw materials and reducing the waste production is a significant application of the so-called closed loop economy model. It's applied to food through solutions that allow to conserve precious resources for the most hard times (dried meat and chestnuts), to beverages (distillates made of grapes processing waste), to clothes (worn clothes are reused to produce shoes or rugs), but generally to the whole organization of the daily life.

The settlement shape

Europe was characterized by a strong increase of population and economical activities most of all the farming ones between the half of XIth century and the half of XIVth century. Several studies have demonstrated that most of the human settlements already existed before the Black Death started in 1346, resulting in the death of an at least a third of the population. In that period men started getting together establishing communities and the first villages on alpine territories started an important and lasting activity related to the transformation of the rural mountain landscape. The basic cell of every settlement on the Alps was the farm based on the extended family that was extended beyond the family unit. The first elementary urban nucleus were organized around some main places like the house, the cattleshed, the barn and some areas for vegetable gardens and fields. In the alpine space there was an evolution of isolated settlements because of an increasing subdivision of plots and an increase of dwellings as a consequence of the appearance of new family units. That kind of settlement that anticipated the village is called "patronymic quarter" (that stands for "contrada patronimica" in Italian). The village was made of several patronymic quarters that joined together, that is a group of different family units with different family names. That sort of settlement already presented a separation between the private ownership, with an house and its vegetable garden or orchard, and properties that belonged to all the inhabitants like fields, woods and pastures. An assembly composed by each head of the family regulated the use of all the common properties and the life in common inside the village. The alpine hamlet had a different structure that was more complex than the village one with several districts and located at the confluence of lateral valleys.

II. MOUNTAIN CULTURAL HERITAGE: SITES AND DESTINATIONS FOR A NEW CULTURAL ROUTE

An analysis of exiting sites and destinations related to the mountain heritage of the Alpine Region (Via Alpina and Mountaineering villages) - heritage in the ALP countries, was carried out with the intention of defining a new which could form a new cultural route. The analysis provided as a result an inventory indicating selected sites and destinations in each country of the ALP (Austria, France (Franche-Comté, Provence-Alpes Côte d'Azur and Rhône-Alpes), Germany (Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria), Italy (Bozen, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Liguria, Lombardy, Piedmont, Trento, Valle d'Aosta and Veneto), Liechtenstein, Slovenia and Switzerland).

The extensive research carried out has allowed to highlight in the Alpine area such a wide heterogeneity of the cultural heritage, tangible and intangible, that a critical evaluation and selection is necessary. The aspects linked to history, to building, to techniques and know-how, to food, to dressing in traditional clothes, have built the Alpine civilization that still today, in the languages and dialects still preserved, in music and dance, in festivals and carnivals, in legends and much more, manifests its identity and memory.

It was therefore considered appropriate to examine the history of the places, themes and common threads that would link together, through history, large parts of the Alps in Europe. In this case, it was not a question of identifying destinations belonging to a specific archaeological and/or historical heritage (of a given period or of a specific population), or to proceed with a selection of individual mountain villages detached from any historical reference, but to proceed with a critical analysis to define a new Cultural Routes on the theme of Alpine heritage as representative of a common European historical and cultural memory.

The research has led to the identification of 3 proposals of vast regions characterized by a common cultural entity still found in some places and settlements, mountaineering villages, *which become cultural landmark*s for a very large territory. These three cultural areas are identified:

Walser Cultural Heritage Alpine Villages (W.CHAV)
Occitan Cultural Heritage Alpine Villages (O.CHAV)
Via Claudia Augusta Cultural Heritage Alpine Villages (CA. CHAV)

The method of investigation adopted for each proposal related to a thematic region was to analyze the cultural heritage, based on some key themes such as **Identity, Settlement, Landscape** and **Museums** and to report some places, Alpine Villages, for each thematic route considered significant in the areas and regions included in EUSALP.

The first two are therefore those dedicated to the Walser and Occitan cultural heritage, which include many of the countries that make up the Alpine macro-region. The third proposal, which starts from an existing itinerary, differs slightly in that it identifies an ancient Roman consular route, the Via Claudia Augusta, which has been recovered in many parts, as a common heritage of a vast area. It therefore

distinguishes itself from the two European cultural macro-regions united by a strong and determined common history and identity as can be easily identified in the culture and the vast European regions of the Walser and Occitan. This is a case, a consolidated historical axis along which part of European history and its cultural heritage has developed, which is well suited to constitute an axis of possible development, compared to the current state characterized by a mostly cycle-tourist path, with enormous cultural potential for a macro-European Cultural Routes.

Networks have also been identified which manage part of this common heritage and projects aimed at research on the Alpine cultural heritage, but which have also promoted the establishment of European networks on the basis of specific transnational themes.

WALSER CULTURAL HERITAGE ALPINE VILLAGES (W.CHAV)

EUSALP States and region: Northern Italy (Piemonte provinces of Verbano-Cusio-Ossola and Vercelli, Lombardia, Valle d'Aosta), France (Haute-Savoie), Switzerland (Upper Valais, Ticino, Graubünden), Liechtenstein and Austria (Tirol, Vorarlberg) Liechtenstein.

The Walser are the original settlers of the Haut-Valais region who colonised certain high valleys of the Alps (Austria, Germany, Liechtenstein, Switzerland and France) in the 12th and 13th centuries. The term Walser is a contraction of the adjective Walliser, meaning Valaisan. The Walser settled originally in the Haut-Valais (and more specifically the Conches valley). From the 12th to the 13th centuries, the Walser emigrated into several high alpine valleys along three fronts: to the south, along several valleys to the south of Mont Rose in Italy; to the east, along certain valleys of Grisons and Vorarlberg, in Austria; to the west, into the Bernese Oberland and the French Alps (with Vallorcine). They were searching for new pastures, crossing over alpine passes during relatively mild weather to settle in the higher zones at the head of the valleys. These colonies which were isolated in the harsh environment of the high mountain, drained and reclaimed vast areas of land for cultivation which at the time was uninhabited and created self-sufficient villages capable of surviving the long and severe winters.

Social mobilisation concerning the Walser culture dates back some forty years. Numerous scientific documents on the Walser have been produced since the beginning of the 20th century. This interest, at first scientific, heralded a more marked infatuation after the 1950s that led to the creation of different Walser cultural associations. The activity of the Walser cultural associations has been largely dependent on this scientific literature, consisting of work on language, history, and questions of local heritage.

A first attempt to link up the different Walser communities in a network took place in 1962 with the organisation of the Walsertreffen, a folk meeting held every three years that brings together all the Walser sites. Following this initiative, the International Walser Association (IVfW) was created in 1965.

The Walser communities have common denominators:
  – Altitudes: settlements in the higher zones at the head of the valleys
  – Mobility and Migration is a central, characteristic aspect of Walser culture
  – Language and dialects
  – Traditions and spirituality

Mobility and Migration is a central, characteristic aspect of Walser culture that created colonies all through the Alps over the centuries in successive waves, gradually producing a form of civilisation that was exclusive to the Alps: pacific high altitude colonisation, which in the case of the Walser did not come from the valleys, but over the passes; the relationship with the mountains, from Summer alps to permanent settlements, the invention of a "lifestyle" that could adapt to high altitudes, to extreme nature with scarce resources and opportunities; the use of the emphyteutic contract which, because it made it possible to hand ownership of land and assets down to future generations, had considerable implications for the architecture and the socio-productive system (like the solidity and gradual embellishment of the houses, and the putting down of roots in a territory, no matter how hostile). These are only a few of the elements that could emerge from an interpretation of Walser society based on this aspect.

Traditions and Spirituality. If on one hand there are some features that are shared with other high altitude societies in the Alps (like those in the lower Valsesia), on the other hand, it is possible to detect sub-elements or specific aspects, with various degrees of legibility, that are related to the common origins of the communities: the language (titchu), worship of a number of typically "Northern" saints (such as St. Nicholas), traditions and stories linked to ice (a sort of Purgatory of the soul, the destination of processions, etc.) that are shared by the high altitude communities that settled around Monte Rosa, the use of architectural elements from popular tradition, such as the "window of the soul" (a small opening in the houses that allowed the soul of a dying person to ascend to Heaven), traditional costumes and their variations, etc.. And finally, even more so than the previous theme, this aspect is also an ideal way of representing the heritage of individual communities.

Cultural Heritage Mountaineering Villages (CHMV)
  1. Identity
  2. Settlement

3. Landscape
4. Museums and Cultural Routes

1. Identity

The Walser identity is more an identity of Alpine regions in general. You cannot really speak of just the Walser, because the things we find have 95% or 100% the same identity as all the valleys or all the regions in the mountains have at that same time.

The identity of the Walsers is defined by material or immaterial attributes, such as farming techniques, architecture, tools, the mentality, place names or the language. The latter attribute has frequently been used to qualify the Walser, particularly where the encompassing linguistic environment is different (in Italy, for example). In many documentations the common language is seen as crucial criteria for the belonging to the group of Walser. Paul Zinsli even thinks: "Where there is no Walser dialect spoken any more, there is no longer any Walser settlement, in fact there are no more Walser" (2002). However the language could no longer be a unifying attribute for the Walser. It has now found a general and substantial decline of the Walser dialect in the Italian valleys over the past twenty years, despite the repeated preservation measures introduced by associations and regional and local authorities.

Common to all Walser are the altitudes which had been advised to them for farming. The long and snowy winter demanded a clever storing of feed. Johannes Führer comes up with the following definition: "The residents of historic Walser settlements in alpine altitudes where language, culture, economics and historic consciousness were vital in the 20th century are identified as Walser." (1993).

2. Settlement

Is there a common way of settlement? As a basic principle, the Romans settled in cramped surroundings in hamlets and villages. The Germanic tribes prefer a loose way of settlements with scattered buildings. Where this was not possible due to avalanches, mud flows or mountain torrents, the Walser built closed settlements.

This tendency is found with the southern Walser, in Rheinwald, in Vals and Avers. The other Walser settlement areas are all with scattered buildings. Each family built on its land living and farm house, stables and barns. Over the centuries, many of the high-lying farms are no longer used all-season but as huts or "Maisäße" (only used over summer). The people moved near the churches (e.g. Nufenen in Rheinwald). The village's centres also built up because of the strongly growing population and infrastructural necessities. In Valais, so called "Haufendörfer" (built-up areas) are typical. Here, it is not the landscape demanding such type of settlement but rather the ancient working conditions. Both settlements with scattered buildings and closed ones are equally common with the Walser. Both also appear in other alpine regions. However, the scattered buildings with separated residential and farm building - in contrast to the Alemannic single building - are connected with the eastern parts of Graubünden, Liechtenstein and Vorarblerg. In Valais the wooden constructions prevail. The brown and often multi-storey houses stand close to each other. For the most part a barn and shed are alongside. The shed is secured against rodents with stone pillars. Traditionally, the buildings are covered with granite slabs. The architectural style of the residential and farm buildings developed regionally. They change over time and according to municipality and location. There is no "Walser"-house, barn or shed which was taken by the migrants into their new homelands. There are similar buildings in the French-speaking Valais, in Upper Ticino or in the Reatoroman Canton Graubünden. Architectural styles developed in certain regions that became traditional. For example, there is the Walser house in Tannberg and Mittelberg which developed regionally: the floor plan as well as the architectural style vary only little.

The Walsers houses were examples of extraordinary architecture, which are still considered as engineering masterpieces, studied and structured in minute detail in order to gain maximum functionality because of the harsh environmental conditions. Normally arranged on three storeys, there is a stone basement, generally dry, with an upper area made out of wood and divided according to the use (Valsesia Valley). Of notable ingenious is also the space allocation: the basement hosts the stables which are equipped with drainage canals for the manure and there is also a living room and kitchen as well as an area for processing milk and for the preparation of yarn and hemp fabrics. Above the stable, on the ground floor, is the bedroom and next to it the storage room for the carpentry tools. The first floor consists of the barn, where agricultural tools are stored and a closed area with shelves and racks used as a pantry for grains and other food goods. Outside, running completely

around the structure, is a large balcony made out of horizontal poles used for drying hay, rye and hemp.

3. Landscape
Natural Park Alta Valsesia
Extending from 900 to 4559 meters above sea level, the nature park high Valsesia is now the highest protected area in Europe. Its territory enclosed by Valli Sermenza, Landwasser Egua and Mastallone, summarizes all areas of the Piedmont Alps: glaciers, moraines, altitude grasslands and shrubby areas populated by junipers and rhododendrons, larch and fir, oak and more scarce beech forests limited to val Mastallone. Definitely the rich fauna: ibex, chamois, deer, marmots and stoats and especially eagles make the park the benchmark of excellence for Alpine nature tourism. The excursion possibilities are many, thanks to the extensive network of trails, in the presence of shelters, the services offered by the management of the park.
http://www.monterosavalsesia.com/parchi_musei/en/en-natural-park-alta-valsesia.html

Sesia ValGrande Geopark
The Sesia Valley Grande Geopark is now the 9th Italian Geopark part of the World Geoparks, under the auspices of UNESCO, from September 2013. A Geopark has in fact an active role in the economic development of its territory and has to make a positive impact on the living conditions of its inhabitants and the environment.
Both were in fact actually already working for some time, on the one hand for the recognition of the territories of the Geopark Valsesia, Valsessera Prealps of Biella, Novara Hills High Val Strona and placed at the area occupied by the fossil supervolcano, similar to the other recognition of different geological singularity and the territory of the national park Val Grande and surrounding areas from the media until the Ossola valley Cannobina. The territory covers 214,000 hectares. The importance of the Geopark is essentially the number of municipalities that comprise it and support it and who are now well-85, with a significant commitment of the local community.
Joining the Park and the local Association have pledged to share not only the principles of conservation of the geological heritage of the territories concerned promoted worldwide network of Geoparks, but also policies for the protection, growth and economic development of the heritage geological present in the territory, and actions to safeguard and promote tangible and intangible evidence directly and indirectly related to the geological peculiarities of territorial basis (collections, artifacts, archeology, industrial and mining, etc.).
http://www.sesiavalgrandegeopark.it/

4. Museums and Cultural Routes
The wide landscape that collects the Walser tangible and intangible cultural heritage is dotted with countless museums, many of which are dedicated to the Walser culture and to the history of the villages and the territory. Some examples are the follow:

The virtual Walser Museum (in German)
http://www.walsermuseum.ch/
Museums in Vorarlberg and Tirol
http://www.walser-alps.eu/museums/museums-in-vorarlberg-and-tirol
Museum in Triesenberg
http://www.walser-alps.eu/museums/museum-in-triesenberg

Museums in the Valsesia (Italy)

Sacro Monte di Varallo (UNESCO site)

This place is one of the most beautiful and important in absolute among many similar spread in Europe inserted between the protected sites of "Unesco World Heritage". Complete and satisfactory, both in strong and centuries-old spiritual component, both admirable and unique contribution in the centuries offered by the painting, plastic, architectural, the Sacro Monte of Varallo is the great treasure inimitable city but it is also bright beacon for devotion of the whole Valsesia. Around the story of a remarkable Sacro Monte, incessant contribution of universal devotion, but also of studies, theses, scientific conferences to high levels to fully understand the message, deeply woven into the socio-cultural context.

The Ecomuseum of Walser territory and culture

The Walser people deserve an ecomuseum of their very own: strong, determined people who faced the mountain in the Middle Ages, setting up colonies and making their homes in places and at altitudes where no one had previously even dreamed of. Numerous villages are part of the ecomuseum, small villages retaining the original features of a Walser village, such as Alagna, Riva Valdobbia, Mollia, Rassa, Carcoforo Rimasco Rima Rimella.

The following museums and permanent exhibitions in the six Walser communities in the Upper Valsesia: Walser Museum, Alagna Valsesia; G. B. Filippa Museum, Rimella; Walser Ecomuseo, Rimella; Pietro Della Vedova Museum and Plaster Collection, Rima San Giuseppe; Museum-Laboratory of Artificial Marble, Rima San Giuseppe; Permanent photographic exhibition "Il costume di Rima", Rima San Giuseppe.

http://www.atlvalsesiavercelli.it/the_ecomuseum_of_walser_territory_and_culture_ing.php

The great Walser Route | The Grand Sentier Walser

Hiking-routes throughout Walser settlements in Northern Italy, Upper Valais, Tessin, Graubünden, Liechtenstein and Vorarlberg.

As the migration of the German speaking people from Valais, i.e. the Walser, was neither concentrated in regards to time or regions the following proposals connect various stations of this colonisation. They are not to be seen as routes of migration and the "Great Walser Route" is not the exact reflection of the Walser culture. In some places Walser characteristics like form of settlement, construction techniques, farming and character of the people can be rediscovered far away from the original homeland.

The official route consists of 29 stages from Zermatt in the Valais (Switzerland) to Mittelberg in the Voralberg (Austria), passing through the Valle d'Aosta, Valsesia, Valais, Val Tormazza, the Ticino and the Grigioni. There are some variations of the
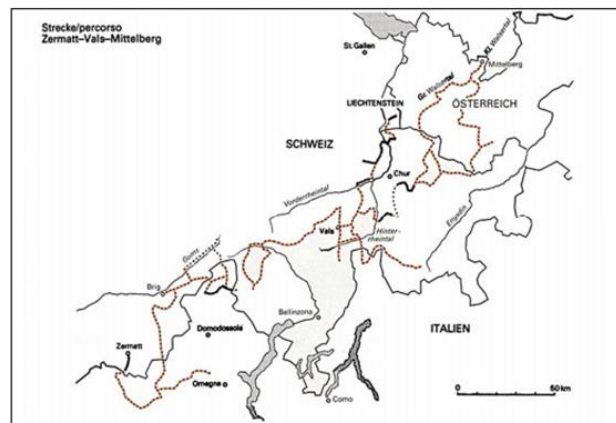
individual stages and in the part final there are two alternative routes to reach Mittelberg from Klosters (Graubünden), for the Große Walsertal and for the Silbertal.
http://www.walserweg.com/ , http://www.alpine-space.org/2000-2006/fileadmin/Documents/Project_Results/Walser_Alps_Sentieri_tematici_Walser_148_pages_IT.pdf

List of Walser Alpine Sites-Villages

The choice of cultural sites respects the following indications identified by Routes 4U project, in particular:
 - The identified sites and destinations should reflect the diversities but also the shared heritage of the ALP as a whole, and be selected in view of their relevance for increasing the visibility of the ALP as a whole
 - The identified sites and destinations should be varied in terms of their nature (archaeological sites, museums, villages and towns…)
- In the identification of sites and destinations due regard has to be given to the involvement of remote, off-the-beaten track areas and to the countries which are less developed in terms of Cultural Routes, usually excluded from tourism flows in the ALP.

For this itinerary, it was considered more correct to report regional sites rather than single villages.

France
- Vallorcine (Haute Savoie, Vallée de Chamonix)

Italy
- Valsesia and ValGrande (Piedmont)
- Gressoney (Val d'Aosta)

Swizerland
- Valais (Upper Ticino)
- Nufenen (Rheinwald, Swizerland)
- Vorarlberg Rhine Valley (Swizerland)
- Graubünden and Chur Rhine Valley canton of Grisons (Swizerland)

Austria
- Tirol
- Tannberg, Mittelberg and Kleinwalsertal

Liechtenstein
- Werdenberg region

OCCITAN CULTURAL HERITAGE ALPINE VILLAGES (O.CHAV)

EUSALP States and region: A region of Europe corresponding to Southern France, some parts of Catalonia and Italy, where the Occitan language was widely spoken and is still spoken.

Occitania includes the following regions:

The southern half of France: Provence, Drôme-Vivarais, Auvergne, Limousin, Guyenne, Gascony, southern Dauphiné and Languedoc. The Occitan Valleys in the Italian Alps, where the Occitan language received legal status in 1999. These are fourteen Piedmontese valleys in the provinces of Cuneo and Turin, as well as in scattered mountain communities of the Liguria region (province of Imperia), and, unexpectedly, in one community (Guardia Piemontese) in the region of Calabria (province of Cosenza).

Occitania is the historical region in southern Europe where Occitan was historically the main language spoken, and where it is sometimes still used, for the most part as a second language. Occitania has been recognized as a linguistic and cultural concept since the Middle Ages, but has never been a legal nor a political entity under this name, although the territory was united in Roman times as the Seven Provinces and in the Early Middle Ages (Aquitanica or the Visigothic Kingdom of Toulouse, or the share of Louis the Pious following Thionville divisio regnorum in 806). Thus the historic Duchy of Aquitaine must not be confused with the modern French region called Aquitaine: this is the main reason why the term Occitania was revived in the mid-19th century.

In Italy, aside from the **Occitan valleys of Piedmont** in the provinces of Cuneo and Turin, there are Occitan communities in **Liguria**, at Triora and Olivetta San Michele. Occitania extends over thirteen valleys in the Piedmont Region, with a harsh, mountainous landscape that differs from the rest of Occitania. Arriving from the Po plain, the valleys open fanlike towards the west: the crown of peaks closes the horizon, glowing pale pink in the morning sunlight and silhouetted darkly against the evening sky. Accessible only with great difficulty for much of human history, the valleys developed their own peculiarities, in both language and traditions. Proof of this is in the langue d'oc common to these people, the artistic heritage left by the painters who worked there, the itinerant traders that brought people from the Mediterranean sea up into the mountains, from one valley to another, and down from the mountains to the Po plain and beyond. In the mountains, slow, steady steps are necessary to reach the top.

The thirteen valleys preserve a natural treasure: the geological marvels of the karsts, the flora and fauna, as well as the architectural culture, the music, literature and culinary traditions. Sadly, the area has lost many of its inhabitants since the end of World War II, and far too few people are left to bear the responsibility for maintaining this legacy.

A new awareness of the respect and safeguard of the environment and its traditions has led to the creation of nature parks and museums in the area, to preserve the memory of how it used to be, and confirm that the mountain is a treasure that we must not let slip away.

The Occitan communities have common denominators:
1. **language:** comprehensible by all Occitan-speaking people, from the Alps to the Pyrenees.
2. **music**: thanks to its universal language, crosses political and physical borders, with a repertoire dating back to the medieval tradition of troubadours.
3. **dance:** representing a vast and lively heritage performed successfully also outside the Occitan territory.

Occitan language or **langue d'oc** (lenga d'òc) is a Latin-based Romance language in the same way as Spanish, Italian or French. There are six main regional varieties, with easy inter-comprehension
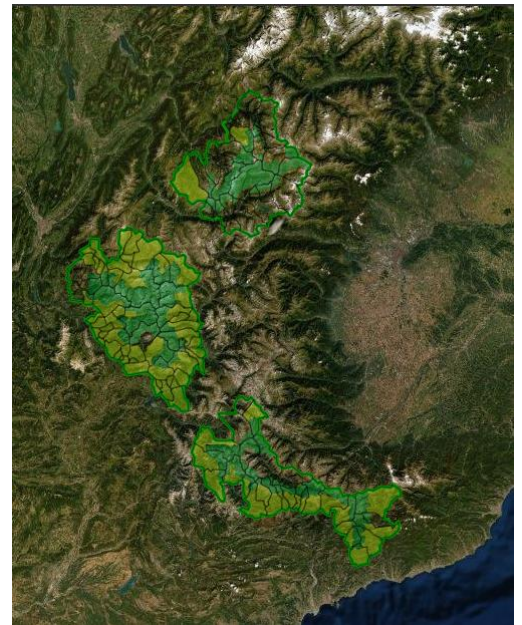
among them: Provençal (including Niçard spoken in the vicinity of Nice), Vivaroalpenc, Auvernhat, Lemosin, Gascon (including Bearnés spoken in Béarn) and Lengadocian. All these varieties of the Occitan language are written and valid. Standard Occitan is a synthesis which respects soft regional adaptations. Catalan is a language very similar to Occitan and there are quite strong historical and cultural links between Occitania and Catalonia. In Italy, Occitan is spoken in several western alpine valleys (Valadas occitanas). Small Occitan communities are found in the Ligurian Alps, in province of Imperia and in the upper Tanaro valley. A very small Occitan-speaking community with Piedmontese origins, Guardia Piemontese, exists in Calabria, in the province of Cosenza.

Currently about 200,000–800,000 people out of 16 million living in the area are either native or proficient speakers of Occitan, although the languages more usually spoken in the area are French, Catalan, Spanish and Italian. Since 2006, the Occitan language has been an official language of Catalonia, which includes the Aran Valley where Occitan gained official status in 1990. (World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous People; https://web.archive.org/web/20090429201218/http:/www.minorityrights.org/1626/france/occitanspeakers.html).

The names "Occitania"and "Occitan language" (Occitana lingua) appeared in Latin texts from as early as 1242–1254 to 1290 and during the following years of the early 14th century; texts exist in which the area is referred to indirectly as "the country of the Occitan language" (Patria Linguae Occitanae). The name Lenga d'òc that was used in Italian (Lingua d'òc) by Dante in the late 13th century. Dante Alighieri, for example, held it in great esteem: in the Convivium (I, 13) he disserts on the "precious speech of Provence" and in the Divine Comedy (Purgatory, Canto XXVI) he uses Occitan for the words of the troubadour Arnaud Daniel, whom he describes as "the greatest artisan of the mother tongue".

Occitan was the language of the southern half of France until the thirteenth century when the French kings began to gain control. From the eleventh century the language was held in high esteem in some parts of France, Italy, Spain, Germany and England on account of the Troubadours, poet-musicians who sang of high ideals, social equality among classes and between men and women, and of courtly love. Occitan was said to be the favourite language of King Richard I of England. The Occitans were detested by the Roman Catholic Church, who fought against them in the Cathar Wars in the thirteenth century. The Cathars and Occitans were eventually defeated and persecuted. In 1539 French replaced Occitan in public administration.

From 1550 there was a literary renaissance but a distinction developed between the written and oral language. It was widely spoken until the Revolution in 1793.

A second literary and cultural revival began in the second half of the nineteenth century, but this was led by intellectuals and was not a populist movement. Several cultural organizations were founded, including teachers' and writers' associations, the Félibrige association, the Societat d'Estudis Occitans and the Institut d'Estudis Occitans.

The European Union, through the European Bureau for Lesser-Used Languages, has provided funding for the creation of an electronic dictionary of Occitan in the Languedoc-Roussillon region, for teacher and school events, and for the assistance of the private sector Calendretas, Occitan-language nursery and primary schools.

Music and Dance

Traditional music and dance are the "export goods" of Occitan culture, as said by Sergio Berardo, one of the most famous Occitan musician. The traditional repertoire has medieval origins and it is associated with celebration of feast days. The most well-known dances are giga, curenta, contradansa, perigurdina among the most ancient, together with the more recent polka, mazurka and scottiche.

Beside the respect of traditions, Occitan music reveals an extraordinary vivacity, being able to renew itself and to keep lively tanks to a large community of musicians often collaborating together and sharing experiences with innovative results. The most famous band is Lou Dalfin, founded in 1982 by Sergio Berardo, expressing an excellent fusion of traditional style with rock, jazz and reggae. Several other groups should be mentioned such as Gai Saber, Lou Seriol, Lhi Jarris and the singer-songwriters Masino Anghilante.

The song repertoire is shared by Occitan people all over the linguistic area. In particular, the song "Se Chanta" is considered the unofficial anthem of Occitania, although being a love song.

Among Occitan traditional musical instruments, the most representative is the hurdy-gurdy (vioula) employed all over Occitania. The hurdy-gurdy is a medieval stringed musical instrument that produces sound by a crank-turned rosined wheel rubbing against the strings. The hurdy-gurdy is played

together with the violin, the diatonic button accordion (semitoun), more rarely with some ancient aerophonic instrument such as the bagpipe, or several types of wind instruments. All these instruments are widespread in the large geographic area going from Pyrenees to Apennines.

Occitan Cultural Heritage Mountain Villages (CHMV)
1. Identity
2. Settlement
3. Landscape
4. Museums

1. Identity: tangible and intangible heritage

Global culture modifies local cultures, rendering them simpler and more similar to one another. Traditional distinctions become increasingly blurred as new, instantly recognizable characteristics of the global culture transform the local landscape. The destabilizing effect of this transformation on local identity (Kinnval, 2004) is often counteracted by the reaffirmation of a strong group identity defined, for example, by nationalism or religion. It follows that feelings of strong territorial, religious or ideological attachment conflict with the interconnectedness and interdependence of globalization. Ethnic identification has replaced territory in defining the political and economic actors who actively promote specific cultural markers (e.g., common language and history), to distinguish them from others, and to justify local demands for more autonomy from larger entities. Following this interpretation, identity is a multifaceted tool for regionalist movements in Europe to advance their political agenda and garner popularity and support. Unlike other new regionalisms in Europe, Occitan identity in Italy is less bound by political or economic interests.

Occitania spans three countries in a broad east to west swath from 14 valleys in the western Alps in Italy, across the south of France, to one valley in northern Spain. Defying definition by geographic borders, Occitan territory is a patchwork of dialects all descending from the medieval French langue d'oc.

The **literary** rediscovery of Occitan at the end of the 19th century was mainly due to the works of Frédéric Mistral, a writer and poet awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1904. In Italy, although the Occitan dialect has been spoken in the Western Alps since the Middle Ages, Occitan identity is a fairly recent creation. Up until the late 1970s, Italian Occitan speakers did not refer to their dialect as Occitan and were largely unaware of the fact that similar dialects are spoken in the Occitan areas of France and Spain.

About 30 years ago, a group of writers, musicians, and tourist agents began to promote the Occitan culture and history of the local mountain communities where Occitan is spoken; the group has also been active in raising awareness of an Occitan identity among people who do not speak the dialect. In Italy, Occitan identity has no political agenda or activist platform. Its spendable use is limited to the development of local tourism and businesses catering to this expanding market. Therefore, Occitan identity offers a good example of non-politicized local identities that have emerged in last few decades.

Real key word of traditional and contemporary Occitan civilisation is the concept of **Convivencia**, something more than conviviality. It is first of all a characteristic of daily life: the pacific sharing of food, of feast and music, which everybody visiting Occitania may find at local festivals and in the hospitable private houses. And it is something more. Convivencia represents the welcome of the stranger, attitude coming from the tolerance tradition towards the different religions living together in the territory.

many festivities and celebrations linked to traditions and folklore animate the Occitan valleys. These include, for example, the following the **Baia of Sampeyre** (Varaita Valley, Italy); it is celebrated every five years during the Mardigras to commemorate the rout of the Saracens from Val Varaita, which occurred, according to local traditions, around the year 1000. Hundreds of costumed participants, organized like an army with commanders, guards, cavalry, infantry and sapeurs reenact the assault that smashed the barriers of tree trunks left by the fleeing Saracens, waving colourful banners. It is all a great flourish of embroidered ribbons and flowers, silk rosettes and cockades, accompanied by Occitan music and dances. At Bellino (Blins), higher in Val Varaita, the baia is celebrated every three years. The ceremony echoes the spring myths and sun cults, typical of archaic

agricultural communities, with their fertility symbols, while the military aspect typical of the baia at Sampeyre is almost entirely lacking. At Sampeyre, Casteldelfino and Pontechianale, the tourist development of the Sixties has partially altered the original architecture, but the historic buildings of the villages and hamlets still make use of a wide range of architectural solutions handed down through the ages. At Tè-nòu, above Torrette di Casteldelfino, near a larch wood, there is the only hamlet of houses with their roofs partially shingled with thin boards of larch.

2. Settlement: Mountain Villages

The Occitan territory has a very vast development and the characters that present the settlements are very heterogeneous. In this case, the analysis will focus only on the Alpine areas (thus excluding southern France and Spain) to identify the recurring themes of the landscape and the villages.

Occitan Cultural Heritage - Mountain Villages in France (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and Provence Alpes Cotè d'Azur regions) and in Italy (Piedmont and Liguria regions)

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- Isere - Hautes-Alpes Ecrins National Park : Villard Reymond
- Queyras Regional Nature Park - Hautes-Alpes: Saint Véran village, La Grave village
- Savoie-Vanoise National Park: Pralognan the Vanoise
- Haute-Savoie: Samoëns village

**Provence Alpes Cotè d'Azur**
- Mercatour Park-Valley of Marvels - Valley of Wonders: Village of Tende
- Mercatour Park-The Roya-Bévéra Valleys (Italy-Liguria): Breil-sur-Roya, Saint-Dalmas-de-Tende, Olivetta San Michele
- Gordolasque Valley: Village of Vesubie, Village of Belvédère

Piedmont and Liguria regions
- Po Valley: Ostana and Oncino villages
- Varaita Valley: villages of the Castle zone (Castellata) Bellino, Pontechianale, Chianale
- Maira Valley: Stroppo and Elva villages
- Grana Valley: Monterosso Grana Coumboscuro – Castelmagno
- Stura Valley. Rittana, borgata Paralup
- Maritime Alps Park- Gesso Valley: Valdieri and Entracque
- Maritime Alps Park- Pesio Valley: Chiusa Pesio

3. Landscape

France. **Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes** is a large region in south-eastern France. it is very famous among mountaineers and it is very famous among mountaineers and those who practice winter sports. To the west, Auvergne is a mostly rural area of medium volcanic mountains (the Massif Central) and an abundance of interesting churches. Visitors to the Rhone Valley in the centre of the region can enjoy a temperate climate, rocky canyons, extensive vineyards and the urban area of Lyon, one of France's most important cities. In the east, the stunningly beautiful French Alps are havens for all manner of outdoor activities, not least skiing.
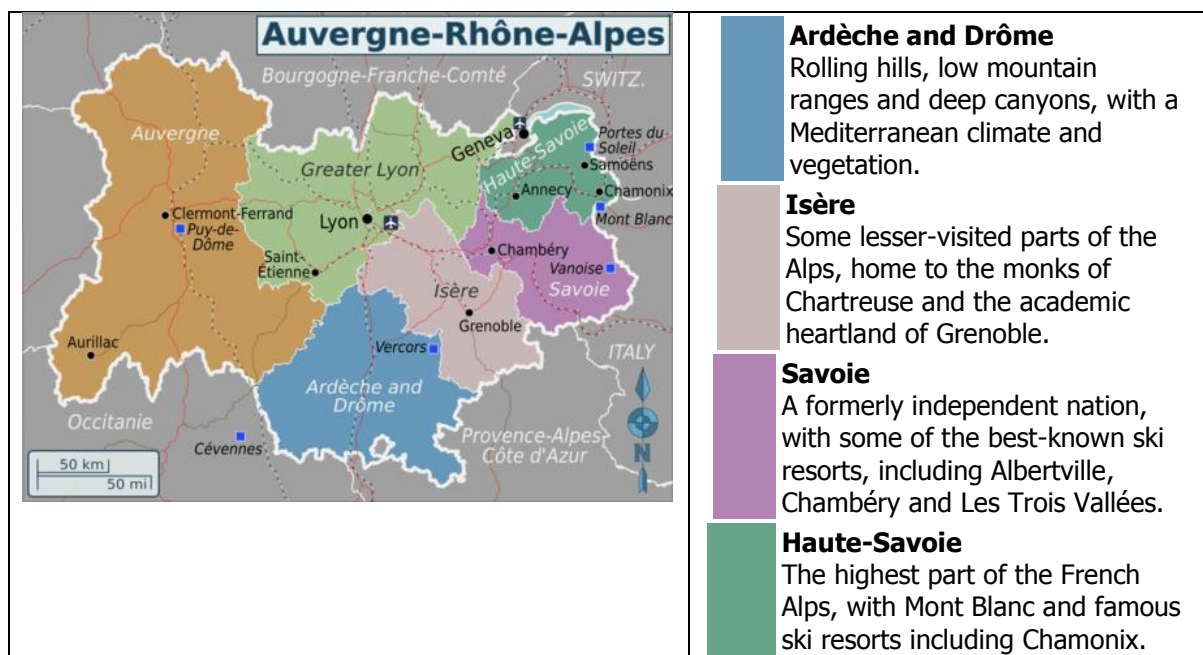
Ardèche and Drôme	Rolling hills, low mountain ranges and deep canyons, with a Mediterranean climate and vegetation.
Isère	Some lesser-visited parts of the Alps, home to the monks of Chartreuse and the academic heartland of Grenoble.
Savoie	A formerly independent nation, with some of the best-known ski resorts, including Albertville, Chambéry and Les Trois Vallées.
Haute-Savoie	The highest part of the French Alps, with Mont Blanc and famous ski resorts including Chamonix.

With Chambéry to the north, Grenoble to the south and Voiron to the west, between Isère and Savoie, the **Chartreuse Regional Natural Park** covers 69,000 hectares and 52 communes. It was established in 1995. The Massif de la Chartreuse is an elongated mountain block some 45 kilometres long by 25 kilometres wide, situated between Chambéry to the north, and Grenoble to the south. The east flank falls abruptly almost 2,000 metres to the Isère valley, whilst to the west, the high ground falls away towards the Rhône valley.

Initiated by mountaineers, naturalists and forest workers, the first steps of its creation go back to 1913. The **Ecrins National Park** was officially created on 27 March 1973. Its charter, co-written with local partners, is based upon suggested excursions, the welcoming of visitors and educational initiatives. This territorial project accompanies economic activities while at the same time respecting the natural environment. Culminating at 4102 meters at the top of the Bar des Ecrins, it is regarded as the European park of tall mountains. Seven large valleys structure the Écrins massif and form marked landscape and cultural identities: Oisans, Valbonnais, Briançonnais, Vallouise, Embrunais, Champsaur and Valgaudemar. The Briançonnais at the gates of the high mountain, the Vallouise and its hidden valleys, the Embrunais, a mountain splashed with water and sun; the Champsaur, alpine garden of the country "bocager"; Valgaudemar, a Himalayas south of the Alps; the Valbonnais, peaceful and steep; the Oisans vertical, valley of the pioneers. Its astonishing diversity in vegetation is a result of great
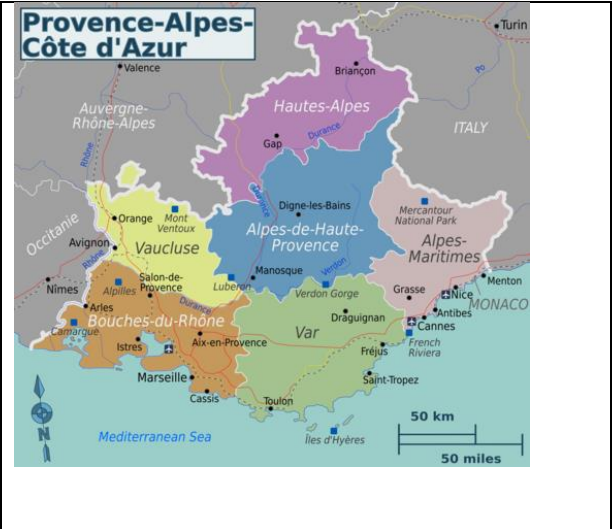
altitude deviations and the conjugation of climatic influences of the Alps and the Mediterranean. Valleys, mountain pastures and peaks are home to all the fauna of the mountains.

Queyras Regional Nature Park - Hautes-Alpes Covering an area of 65,000 hectares, Queyras Regional Nature Park is home to a great deal of flora and fauna. It is the most enclosed mountain valley in France, was isolated for many centuries, and could not be reached throughout the year until 1855, when the "route du Guil" was opened up, replacing a perilous mule track. The status of Regional Natural Park obtained in 1977 made it possible to protect the purity of the landscapes and the uniqueness of typical mountaineering villages like: Ceillac, Arvieux, Château-Queyras, Ville-Vieille, Molines, Mont-Dauphin, Saint Véran, Aiguilles, Abriès. Although the Queyras, which is fundamentally an agricultural area, opened up to tourism - in the late 19th century - it was never mass tourism.

The **Vanoise National Park** in Savoie was the first of its kind to be created in France in 1963. It has an exceptional flora (more than 1,000 different species are referenced) and includes 28 villages, such as Bonneval-sur-Arc, Aussois, Champagny-en-Vanoise and Pralognan-la-Vanoise. Ideally located in the heart of the French Alps, between the valleys of the Maurienne and the Tarentaise, the Vanoise massif includes 107 summits over 3,000 metres high, and approximately twenty glaciers that feed many strong streams. The most famous summits are the Grande Casse (3,855m) at the centre of the Park, the Mont Pourri (3,779m) near Bourg Saint-Maurice, the Grande Motte (3,656m) near Tignes, the Sommet de Bellecôte (3,416m) and the Dent Parrachée (3,684) above Modane in the Maurienne. Protected by the Prealps and the Belledonne massif from the influence of the oceanic climate, the Vanoise massif usually enjoys a sunny summer. Small villages like Champagny-le-Haut, Termignon, La Chiserette, Bramans, Sollières-Sardières, Friburge, Pralognan-la-Vanoise and Séez, lie near the park.

France. **Provence Alpes Cotè d'Azur**
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur is the most popular holiday region in the south of France. It covers a large area from the Mediterranean Sea in the south up to the French Alps in the north and extends west to east along the coast from the river Rhône all the way to the Italian border. Its identity as a geographical region being a legacy of the Roman Empire, the Provence includes the French Riviera and is famous for its sunny weather, colourful countryside, long-standing traditions and local language (Provençal). The region's favourable climate makes the variety of available local produce second to none. Flowers, fruits and vegetables all grow in abundance, the sea's fish and shellfish stocks are rich and all this without forgetting those two most Provençal of industries: wine-making and perfumery.

Alpes-de-Haute-Provence
The mountainous northern part of the historic Provence. Highlights include the eastern Luberon's typically Provençal landscape and the Verdon Gorge, known as France's "grand canyon".

Alpes-Maritimes
Mostly known for the French Riviera, including cities such as Nice and Cannes, this department boasts 300 days of sunshine per year. Inland gets you into the Alps.

Hautes-Alpes
Part of the French Alps, this is among the highest regions in Europe. With few towns and no large cities, this is the place to escape the Riviera's excesses.

The **Verdon Gorge** is an awe-inspiring canyon in the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence region of France. The canyon varies from between 6 and 100m at the bottom, and 200 to 1500m at its rim. The canyon was formed in the Quaternary Era as a result of earth movements while the Alps were moving upwards, and also from erosion of Jurassic era limestone by the Verdon river. Throughout the 19th century, the

deepest gorges were thought to be impenetrable. Only a few local woodcutters went down into the gorges on ropes, looking for box wood (buis) stumps that they used for making boules.

The canyon remained unexplored until the early 20th century. Armand Janet attempted a canoe exploration in 1896, but gave up because of the violent currents. In August of 1905, the speleologist Edouard Alfred Martel did the first complete exploration of the gorges on a 3-day expedition. Part of the Martel trail is still used, between Point Sublime to La Maline.

Mercantour National Park

The Mercantour National Park, created in 1979, covers 2142 km² (of which 685 are in the core zone, that is to say under special protection status, and in addition Natura 2000 and 1462 in the optimal area of membership). It presents two large massifs separated by the axis of the Tinée: to the northwest a limestone or schistose massif, in the South East the crystalline massif shared with the Argentera. It is made up of a mosaic of natural environments whose diversity conditions the richness of the fauna and flora.

About 2,000 different species of flora are known in the park, of which 234 are considered as heritage. Wild ungulates (chamois, ibex deer, deer, mouflons and wild boars) are with many other mammals emblematic of this area: the wolf, recently returned to settle in this part of the Alps from a nucleus of the Apennines, testifies by its presence in the quality of the environment and nature knows no boundaries. The Mercantour Park shares 33 km of common border with the Alpi Marittime Natural Park.
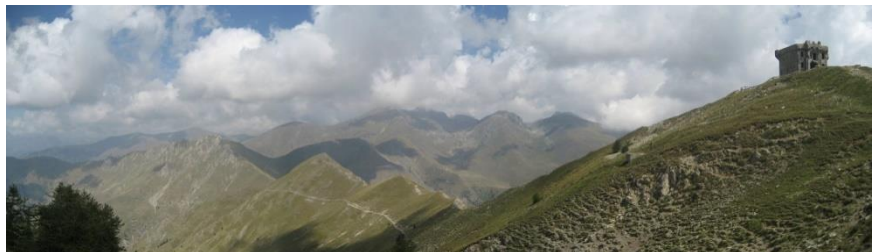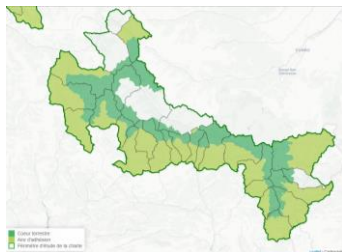

The protected area covers some 685 km², consisting of a central uninhabited zone comprising seven valleys: Roya, Bévéra, Vésubie, Tinée, Haut Var and Cians (in the Alpes-Maritimes) plus Verdon and Ubaye (in the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence), and a peripheral zone comprising 28 villages. Many of them are perched villages, such as Belvédère at the entrance to the spectacular Gordolasque valley, concealing great architectural riches (numerous churches decorated with murals and altar pieces by primitive Niçois painters). More than 150 rural sites are located within the Park. Around Mont Bégo there are petroglyphs pecked out on schist and granite faces. They have been dated from the late Neolithic and Bronze Ages. The protected area covers some 685 square kilometres, consisting of a central uninhabited zone comprising seven valleys - Roya, Bévéra, Vésubie, Tinée, Haut Var/Cians (in the Alpes Maritimes) plus Verdon and Ubaye (in the Alpes de Haute Provence) - and a peripheral zone comprising 28 villages. Many of them are perched villages, concealing great architectural riches (numerous churches decorated with murals and altar pieces by primitive Niçois painters).

Italy. Monviso Natural Park and Natural Park of the Po River

The **PO VALLEY** is one of the shortest of the Occitan valleys. It is located at the centre of the fan ideally formed by these valleys, and in a few dozen kilometers reaches an altitude of 3841 meters above sea level with the peak of Monviso, that dominates the western horizon. This is where the highest park of the Po in Cuneo province is located, established to safeguard the source of that great river, and the flora and fauna characteristic of the mountain environment, but also of the wetland environment, with the peat bogs that distinguish some of these high plateaus. Some of the most significant of these etchings are found on Mombracco, the mountain with its unmistakable rounded shape that closes the valley at the lower end.

Monviso has always aroused a sort of fearful reverence in the people who admired it at close quarters or from far away, and in ancient times it was believed to be the highest mountain in the world. Virgil mentions it in the Aeneid, calling it Vesulus. Even Dante, Petrarch and Leonardo da Vinci describe their feelings of wonder at the sight of Monviso. The British mountain-climber Matthews was

the first to reach the summit in 1861 and it was scaled again in 1863 by Quintino Sella who decided to found the Italian Alpine Club (C.A.I.) here.
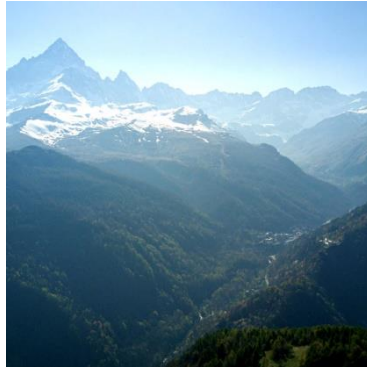
Varaita Valley is crossed by the ancient road to France that goes to Colle dell'Agnello. It runs from Piasco to Chianale. At the center of the valley lies Sampeyre, that is, St. Peter, from Peire in Occitan. **Alevé** is the name of the forest of Swiss stone pines, *elvo* in Occitan, on the mountains of Casteldelfino and Sampeyre, up to an altitude of 2700 m: it is one of the largest Swiss stone pine forests in the Alps, crossed by trails that go to lake Bagnour, where there is a small lodge for hikers. As early as 1387, the laws of Casteldelfino forbade exploitation of the woods. A walk through the Alevè can bring close encounters with foxes, deer, ground hogs and hares. A typical creature of these woods, though seldom about during the day, is the boreal owl, while during warm afternoons it is possible to observe the lazy flight of buzzards. The pine nuts (garilhs) of the Swiss stone pine are edible and were also pressed to provide oil for lanterns.

Grana Valley is the closest of all the valleys to Cuneo. At the entrance to this little valley, still characterized by an active agricultural live, is Vignolo, at its head Castelmagno, with its thirteen hamlets and a sanctuary that is one of the most famous in the western Alps. The scenery is spectacular, with leafy chestnuts and beeches, and conifers, that at the higher altitudes give way to pastures with the rare examples of protected flora that have made Castelmagno cheese so famous.

The Natural Park of the Maritime Alps. Gesso Valley
The Natural Park of the Maritime Alps, about 29,000 hectares around the Argentera massif, is the largest park in the Piedmont Region. It borders on the French National Park of Mercantour, with which it has been twinned since 1987. This means that a total of 100,000 hectares of precious alpine territory are protected and, in 1993, received the European recognition for the environment. The Park has, as its distinctive feature, its vicinity to the sea, although many of its peaks and glaciers are over three thousand meters. About 1,900 superior plant species have been classified in the Park, and many of these are preciously endemic, 26 even exclusive. Rich in fauna, with the ibex in the foreground, it also has, chamois, mouflons from the Mercantour, wolves, eagles, lammergeyers and peregrine falcons.
The wolves returned gradually, along the Apennine range and it was just in Valle Gesso, toward the border with the French Park of Mercantour, that the signs of its presence were found to be particularly numerous. Their return has created some problems for the shepherds, who must now protect their sheep from attacks by the predator. At the Centre of the Maritime Alps Park in Entracque, experts are studying the behaviour of the new arrivals. After counting the animals from the Val Vermenagna to the Val Varaita, they follow their tracks in the snow in the winter. In the summer they "howl" from the coombs and crests, imitating the call of the wolves or playing tapes of recorded howls. (www.regione.piemonte.it/parchi/lupo/progetto/monitor.htm).

Vermenagna Valley is one of the most ancient routes of transit through the Alps, and this is confirmed by the finding at Roccavione (Bec Berciassa at 962 m altitude) of a settlement from the Iron Age. In the Middle Ages, the valley was an important route of transit for the salt caravans and communications from Piedmont to western Liguria and the Nice area. Tenda pass was also used by merchants. The trades linked to traffic and transportation have St. Eligio as their patron saint. The road tunnel at Tenda, excavated in 1883 for the passage of the postal stage coach, measures 3.3 km

and was one of the first in the Alps. It facilitated the opening toward the Nice area and Provence. The well-developed road system also partially explains the presence in the lower valley of quarrying and mining industries that provided jobs for the local population, limiting emigration from the valley. Today, the valley is the only one in the province of Cuneo to have an international highway and railway line, connecting Turin and Cuneo to Nice. Limone P.te, at the far end of the valley, is considered the most important ski resort in the southwestern Alps. The first skiers braved its slopes in 1907, but it was not until 1936 that the first ski lifts and hotels were built. After the war its snows became a renowned resort for skiers and tourists from Cuneo, Liguria and the Nice area (www.limonepiemonte.it). In spite of its intensive development and construction as a ski resort, the town has preserved a strong community identity and a languedoc dialect with a number of curious phonetic peculiarities.

4. Museums

Isere - the Chartreuse Natural Park. Charterhouse of Grenoble In 1080 Bruno and six companions ask the bishop of Grenoble a desert in the mountains of his diocese. He erected a small hermitage at St. Pierre de Chartreuse, which became the cradle of a great contemplative order. The first monastery was erected at Our Lady of Casalibus, in 1084 and will be carried away by an avalanche in 1132. The church and the current monastery were consecrated in 1133.
At the heart of the Chartreuse Natural Park, you will appreciate the places of life of the Chartreux, the serenity of the site, and this famous "Grand Silence". If the monastery remains a place of prayer, the museum, located in La Correrie, can be visited and accompanies the visitor in the life of the monks gathered in solitude and in silence. The Grande Chartreuse museum is a true Nature-Culture outlet, starting point for many hikes, including the walk to the monastery, two kilometers from La Correrie.

Haute-Savoie - Samoëns. The Clos Parchet Farm Folk Museum. An authentic farm that houses a collection built up by Pierre and Simone Déchavassine. Take a step back in time by visiting this traditional farm which has been restored to its original 19th century condition. The Guides du Patrimoine Savoie Mont Blanc have brought together a collection of period objects to illustrate everyday life in a farm in Samoens in the year 1815. Farm work in the surrounding fields and the trades of the past are also illustrated by a large collection of objects displayed in the barn (https://www.savoie-mont-blanc.com/en/offre/fiche/ferme-ecomusee-du-clos-parchet/401586).

Mercatour Park-Valley of Marvels - Valley of Wonders. Musée départemental des Merveilles. The Alpes-Maritimes Department decided to create the Musée des Merveilles in 1996 in order to contribute to the protection of this exceptional archaeological heritage. During the visit of the Museum of Wonders, the wealth of objects and documents presented, the realism of the characters put in scene give the sensation of joining in time the men of the Protohistory then to cross the centuries with their descendants.

Mercatour Park-Valley of Marvels - Valley of Wonders. Tende pass. The pass has been known since the protohistoric period. Roman votive deposit were found during excavations. Its location, at the highest point of the «Real Strada», the Royal Road, allowed muleteers from Tende to prosper as they offered their transportation services to merchants. At the end of the 19th century, the ridge was extensively fortified by the Italians. The Central Fort, the major building of the defensive system, was

flanked by five half-buried forts. Between the two World Wars the fortification was completed with underground bunkers, in compliance with the Alpine Wall defensive system, «Vallo Alpino». https://www.tendemerveilles.com/decouverte-art-histoire-traditions/ouvrage-fortifie-musee-vallo-alpino.html.

Mercatour Park-Valley of Marvels - Valley of Wonders. The Train of Wonders. The line of Tende is a set of two railway lines located in the Alpes-Maritimes department . The name of Tende line, often used in the common language, brings together the following two lines: the Nice line at Breil-sur-Roya; the line from Cuneo to Ventimiglia. The first, 44 km long , located entirely in French territory, connects Nice-Ville station to Breil-sur-Roya. The second, about 100 km long , connects the two Italian stations of Ventimiglia and Cuneo (Piedmont) via Tende, crossing the portion of French territory located between the stations of Trap and Viévola.
It crosses the crest of the Maritime Alps between Italy and France , through a tunnel more than 8 km long under the Tende pass. South of the Tende tunnel, the line crosses, in French territory, the peripheral zone east of the Mercantour National Park.

Po Valley. The sanctuary of San Chiaffredo is located at Crissolo. According to tradition, Chiaffredo was a Roman soldier from the Theban Legion, like his companions Maurizio, Magno, Ponzio, Dalmazzo, Costanzo, Mauro, Pancrazio, typical saints of the Occitan mountains. Some fled toward the valleys of Monviso, where Chiaffredo, hunted by the pagans, was martyred. The many votive offerings displayed in the sanctuary tell of the wars, tragedies and hopes of this mountain people. The cycle of life, work in the fields, the stables, the school, the traditions, are illustrated in the **Municipal Ethnographic Museum of Ostana** with objects, reconstructions of environments and photographs captioned in Occitan and Italian.

Varaita Valley. Castle zone (Castellata) - Bellino Museum of Time and Meridians. The old primary school of Celle di Bellino houses the **Museum of Time and Meridians**. The visitors are introduced to the itinerary among the meridians frescoed on houses and religious buildings throughout the town, where in the past there were several shops of sundial makers. Photographic panels suggest a reflection on time, while a film marks the passage of the seasons with twelve proverbs in Occitan.

Maira Valley. Elva Church of Santa Maria Assunta. The church, consecrated to the Assumption, stands on a rocky spur. Archaic figures decorate the doorway: têtes coupées in the Celtic-Ligurian tradition, Beluin masks, The arch of the presbytery is adorned with the symbols of the zodiac, a Romanesque twin tailed mermaid, St. George and the dragon, the cauldron of the damned who boil for their sins. The interior houses the frescoes of Hans Clemer, a Flemish painter who worked all over the Saluzzo Marquisate between the end of the 15th century and 1508,when he left for Provence to work at Tarascon, Pertuis and Vinon… other Occitan towns. His frescoes in the parish church of Elva are the masterpieces of the Occitan valleys.

Grana Valley. Sanctuary of Castelmagno. Sanctuary named after San Magno, at 1760 meters altitude, one of the stops on a religious itinerary that, leaving from Sant'Anna di Vinadio, winds its way through the Maira and Varaita valleys (sanctuaries of Valmala and Becetto) and reaches the upper Po valley, where the sanctuary of San Chiaffredo is located. St. Magno is considered one of the martyrs of the Theban Legion. Since time immemorial, the popular devotion of the people of the valley for San Magno has never waned. He is considered the patron saint of the herds and alpine pastures. On his feast day, August 19, a statue of the saint – dressed as a warrior – has been carried in procession high in the mountains, since 1700, borne by a dozen members of the baia, in tailcoats and felucas, adorned with colored silk ribbons and cockades (es livrees) tied to the halberds.

Stura Valley. Memories of the Alps in wartime (Borgo San Dalmazzo, Rittana)
The traces on the Alps of World War II – the war against France, the Resistance Movement and racial persecutions – are a cross-border network of **ecomuseums**. In the province of Cuneo alone there are over forty "Pathways to Freedom" , that link sites and itineraries evocative of the historical memory. Information centres (Cuneo, Borgo San Dalmazzo, Boves, Sambuco),with spaces, initiatives and materials that revive, in the heart and mind, the thoughts, plans, choices, feelings and emotions of the people of those years. For example, in 1940 the entire Stura valley area was occupied by several

divisions of Alpine troops and infantry, cannons and Blackshirt divisions that Mussolini counted on to break through the French lines..

A **Memorial** at the railroad station of **Borgo San Dalmazzo** commemorates the Jews from all over Europe who came there on foot from Val Vésubie. Many were saved by the townspeople but a few hundred people were captured and shipped off to the German concentration camps. Following September 8, 1943, the first groups of partisans began to get organized in the Occitan mountains. A group of anti-Fascists, led by Duccio Galimberti, Dino Giacosa, Dante Livio Bianco and others met at Madonna del Colletto, between the Stura and Gesso valleys, forming the "Free Italy Band". Since the position of Madonna del Colletto was difficult to defend, the group moved its base to **Borgata Paralup**, at the far end of the Rittana valley between the Stura and Grana valleys, where the Foundation named after the partisan writer Nuto Revelli is now working on a project of architectural conservation. (www.memoriadellealpi.net).

Maritime Alps Park-Gesso Valley. Fortress of Vinadio

Now that it has been restored by the Piedmont Region, tourists can visit the Fortress built by Carlo Alberto at **Vinadio**, a masterpiece of engineering and technology, and one of the most significant examples of military architecture in the western Alps. The construction, begun in 1834, employed as many as 4000 people and was completed fourteen years later. Inside, three levels of walkways house the interactive exhibition entitled "Mountain on the Move", organized in a keenly spectacular way. It is defined as a series of "multimedia paths across the southern Alps. An invitation to rediscover the past and reflect on the present while exploring the future of the alpine valleys".

Maritime Alps Park-Pesio Valley. Chiusa Pesio

The Charterhouse located in the municipality of **Chiusa Pesio** was founded in 1173,when the nobles of Morozzo donated their lands in the upper valley to the Carthusian order. The friars preserved many works of art, to the extent that already in the 16th century they had to enlarge the structure. In the 17th century the grand loggia was built, still striking for its majestic proportions and the monumental staircase. The friars decided to build a number of granges for the cultivation of the surrounding lands. In 1802 the Napoleon's government closed the charterhouse and its treasures were scattered. The building served in the 19th century as a hydrotherapy establishment, until it was closed in 1915.It was only in 1934 that works were undertaken to renovate this admirable building, restoring it to its earlier splendour as a place of meditation and pilgrimage, concealed among the chestnuts (www.certosadipesio.org).

List of Occitan Mountain Sites-Villages

The choice of cultural sites respects the following indications identified by Routes 4U project, in particular:
 - The identified sites and destinations should reflect the diversities but also the shared heritage of the ALP as a whole, and be selected in view of their relevance for increasing the visibility of the ALP as a whole
 - The identified sites and destinations should be varied in terms of their nature (archaeological sites, museums, villages and towns…)
- In the identification of sites and destinations due regard has to be given to the involvement of remote, off-the-beaten track areas and to the countries which are less developed in terms of Cultural Routes, usually excluded from tourism flows in the ALP.

Occitan Cultural Heritage Mountain Villages in France (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and Provence Alpes Cotè d'Azur regions) and in Italy (Piedmont and Liguria regions)

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- Isere - Hautes-Alpes Ecrins National Park : Villard Reymond
- Queyras Regional Nature Park - Hautes-Alpes: Saint Véran village, La Grave village
- Savoie-Vanoise National Park: Pralognan the Vanoise
- Haute-Savoie: Samoëns village

Provence Alpes Cotè d'Azur
- Mercatour Park-Valley of Marvels - Valley of Wonders: Village of Tende
- Mercatour Park-The Roya-Bévéra Valleys (Italy-Liguria): Breil-sur-Roya, Saint-Dalmas-de-Tende, Olivetta San Michele
- Gordolasque Valley: Village of Vesubie, Village of Belvédère

Piedmont and Liguria regions
- Po Valley: Ostana and Oncino villages
- Varaita Valley: villages of the Castle zone (Castellata) Bellino, Pontechianale, Chianale
- Maira Valley: Stroppo and Elva villages
- Grana Valley: Monterosso Grana Coumboscuro – Castelmagno
- Stura Valley. Rittana, borgata Paralup
- Maritime Alps Park- Gesso Valley: Valdieri and Entracque
- Maritime Alps Park- Pesio Valley: Chiusa Pesio

VIA CLAUDIA AUGUSTA CULTURAL HERITAGE – ALPINE VILLAGES (CA. CHMV)

After two thousand years of history, Via Claudia Augusta, the ancient Roman road that led from the Po River lowlands and the Adriatic Sea all the way to Bavaria and the Danube, is enjoying a renaissance. With the end of conflict and a united Europe, the Via Claudia Augusta has become a bridge joining and blending cultures, places and emotions. It is a symbolic route that spans three nations, each with its own diverse landscape and traditions, artistic treasures and culinary specialities, marked by a more approachable, youthful and ecologically sustainable tourism. The itinerary invites us to leave our watches at home to explore places and landscapes from a fresh perspective, attentive to the colours, subtle nuances, fragrances and flavours of the history that permeates everything here.

It all began in 15 B.C. when the Roman General Drusus the Elder, the adopted son of Augustus, decided to open a passage through the Alps for the military incursions in Rhaetia-Vindelicia and in the Noricum, today known as Austria. The immense job of building the road was completed 60 years later in 46-47 A.D. by Drusus's son, Emperor Claudius (41-54 A.D.), to connect people and goods between the Adriatic Sea and the Po River with the Danube River, at the northern frontier of the Empire.

The only certain sources regarding the Via Claudia Augusta are two milestones, one found in Rablà/Rabland near Merano/Meran (South Tyrol, Italy) and the other in Cesiomaggiore (Belluno, Italy). (...) These two important relics have left historians with a thorny conundrum to resolve. While both records cite the same destination of the road, the important centre of Augusta Vindelicorum, today known as Augsburg, they indicate different starting points: the Rablà milestone refers to the area surrounding Ostiglia, near the Po River, whereas the milestone in Cesiomaggiore cites the port area of Altino, near Venice.

Although there are still many questions left to be answered, historians unanimously agree on the existence of a single section of the Via Claudia Augusta that led from Tridentum (Trento) along the Adige River to Pons Drusi (near Bolzano/Bozen, South Tyrol), continued towards Maia (near Merano/Meran), and passed through the Resia Pass to come to an end after stretching through the Valley of Inn and Lech, just beyond Augusta Vindelicorum (Augsburg), in a town on the Danube near the present-day Donauwörth.

The section of the important Roman way until Tridentum followed a bifurcation. One branch moved from the vicus in Hostilia (Ostiglia) and arrived in Tridentum by way of Verona, where it intersected another important route, the Via Postumia. Another branch, the more debated by historians and archaeologists, started at the important harbour of Altinum (Altino), on the Adriatic Sea and moved through the municipium of Feltria (Feltre), arriving at Tridentum along the Valsugana.

Initiated by Drusus as an artery of conquest and defence, Emperor Claudius continued to develop the Via Claudia Augusta during his reign, which led to the formation of populated stationes originally used for changing horses that gradually grew and fortified. Development continued in the following decades, evidenced by the many archaeological vestiges discovered along the entire route of the Via Claudia Augusta, for many years the only road network between the Rhaetic and Adriatic regions.

Baviera:
- The north of the Via Claudia Augusta - Donau-Ries and the Augsburg region
- Ammersee-Lech & Pfaffenwinkel - towns and villages on the Lech and Auerberg
- The majestic Allgäu - Füssen, Schwangau, Lechbruck am See, Rieden am Forggensee und Rosshaupten

Tyrol:
- Reutte Nature Park Region - the gateway to th Tyrol and the Alps
- Tyrolean Zugspitz Arena - at the foot of Germany's highest mountain
- Imst holiday region - alpine valleys to the south of the Fern Pass
- TirolWest - holiday hub at the corner of the Tyrol
- Tirolean Oberland - string of pearls from the Upper Inn valley to the Reschen Pass

South Tyrol:
- Schlanders and Laas - at the heart of the Venosta Valley apple-growing
- Algund & Marling near Merano - where the historic bridge crosses the Adige

Trentino:
- Piana Rotaliana Königsberg - the wine plateau at the heart of Trentino

- Rovereto and Vallagarina- the gateway between the Alps and the Po Plain

Veneto:

- Dolomiti Prealpi - on historic soil at the gateway to the national park
- The AltaMarca - vineyards at the foot of the mountains in Veneto

List of Via Claudia Augusta - Alpine Sites and Villages

The choice of cultural sites respects the following indications identified by Routes 4U project, in particular:

- The identified sites and destinations should reflect the diversities but also the shared heritage of the ALP as a whole, and be selected in view of their relevance for increasing the visibility of the ALP as a whole
- The identified sites and destinations should be varied in terms of their nature (archaeological sites, museums, villages and towns…)
- In the identification of sites and destinations due regard has to be given to the involvement of remote, off-the-beaten track areas and to the countries which are less developed in terms of Cultural Routes, usually excluded from tourism flows in the ALP.

Tyrol, Austria

- Reutte Nature Park Region, Village of Ruette
- Village of Bichlbach
- Over the Fern Pass into Imst Holiday Region: Village of Imst
- Through the Tiroler Oberland holiday region to Pfunds: Villages of Prutz and Pfunds

South Tyrol, Alto Adige

- Vinschgau from the Reschen Pass to Laas, Village in the Venosta Valley

Trentino Alto Adige, Italy

- Bolzano and the villages on the southern South Tyrolean Adige, Village of Klausen-Chiusa
- The Rotaliano plain and Trento, Village of Mezzocorona (Trentino Alto Adige, Italy)

MOUNTAINEERING VILLAGES ALONG THE VIA ALPINA

The project "Bergsteigerdörfer – mountaineering villages" are handpicked by the Austrian Alpine Association and represent Alpine heritage at its best: old and well established alpine history, unspoilt nature, a very rich hiking offer, climbing and ski touring possibilities and much more. Being Alpine competence centres, the Mountaineering Villages focus on responsibility, ability and sovereignty as well as the environmentally friendly and responsible behaviour of their guests in the mountains. This commitment to preserve local cultural and natural values has elevated Bergsteigerdörfer to become an official implementation project of the Alpine Convention (Fall 2016). Partnership Agreements now lay the ground for new mountaineering villages in neighbouring countries of Germany, Italy and Slovenia.

Hiking along the Via Alpina, you will come through some of these small but nice villages and it pays off to stay some days in such a mountaineering village. Following villages are situated on the Via Alpina trails:

Red itinerary: Lesachtal - Karnischer KammTiroler Gailtal - Karnischer Kamm with the villages Obertillilach, Untertilliach und Kartitsch, Ginzling in the Zillertal, Großes Walsertal with the villages Sonntag/Buchboden, Thüringerberg, St. Gerold, Blons, Raggal/Marul, Fontanella/Faschina

Yellow itinerary: Vent in the Ötztal

Purple Itinerary: Zell-Sele, Johnsbach im Gesäuse (Admont), Ramsau bei Berchtesgaden, Sachrang-Schleching (July 2017)

List of Alpine - Alpine Sites and Villages (Bergsteigerdörfer – mountaineering villages)

The choice of cultural sites respects the following indications identified by Routes 4U project, in particular:
 - The identified sites and destinations should reflect the diversities but also the shared heritage of the ALP as a whole, and be selected in view of their relevance for increasing the visibility of the ALP as a whole
 - The identified sites and destinations should be varied in terms of their nature (archaeological sites, museums, villages and towns…)
- In the identification of sites and destinations due regard has to be given to the involvement of remote, off-the-beaten track areas and to the countries which are less developed in terms of Cultural Routes, usually excluded from tourism flows in the ALP.

- **Luče** (Slovenia)
- **Jezersko** (Slovenia)
- **Zell-Sele** (Slovenia)
- **Kötschach-Mauthen** (Carinthia, Austria)
- **Lesachtal Village** (Carinthia, Austria)
- **Schleching** and **Sachrang** (Bavaria, Germany)
- **Grosses Walsertal** (Vorarlberg, Austria)

III. ANALYSIS OF THE STATE OF THE ART OF THE ENTITIES NETWORKS OF THE ALPINE CULTURAL HERITAGE, WITH RELATED MANAGING AUTHORITIES

Entities networks and associations (NA); European projects (EP)

NA. EXPEDITIO is a non-governmental organization whose mission is to encourage sustainable spatial development in Montenegro and SEE region through activity in the fields of sustainable architecture, cultural heritage, urban planning and through projects that encourage overall development of the civil society. Expeditio was established in 1997.
http://expeditio.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=categories&id=82&Itemid=437&lang=en

NA. The **IMMA,** is an international association of mountain museums, which gather objects and mountain archives and deal with the history of mountain exploration.
IMMA aims to promote the culture of the mountains as well as to organize joint projects and exchange the experiences between institutions.
IMMA was established on December 11, 2015 at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome. This event was the result of a collaboration between the Tatra Museum and the National Museum of Mountain in Turin.
The agreement was signed by five institutions: Musée Alpin in Chamonix (France), Servei General d'Informatique de Muntanya in Sabadell (Spain), Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies in Banff (Canada), Museo Nazionale della Montagna "Duca degli Abruzzi" Turin (Italy) and the Tatra Museum in Zakopane.
In 2016 representatives of IMMA met in Zakopane, at a conference organized by the Tatra Museum. The visit was accompanied by the opening of an exhibition of photographs by Father Alberto Maria De Agnostini from the collections of the National Museum of Mountain in Turin. The exhibition was held at the Museum of the Zakopane Style at Koliba villa.
At the beginning of October 2017 IMMA met again, this time in Sabadell at the headquarters of the Servei General d'Informació de Muntanya. The discussions mainly concerned the joint activities of member museums - the International Mountain Day and other smaller or or larger ventures between the foreign partners.
https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/good-practices/item/179/international-mountain-museums-alliance-imma/

NA. EUROMONTANA
is the European multisectoral association for co-operation and development of mountain territories. It embraces regional and national mountain organisations throughout greater Europe, including regional development agencies, local authorities, agriculture organisations, environmental agencies, forestry organisations and research institutes.
Snow_mountain: Euromontana's mission is to promote living mountains, integrated and sustainable development and quality of life in mountain areas. In order to achieve this, Euromontana facilitates the exchange of information and experience among these areas by organising seminars and major conferences, by conducting and collaborating in studies, by developing, managing and participating in European projects and by working with the European institutions on mountain issues.
https://www.euromontana.org/en/

NA. International Association for Walsertum (IVfW)
The Walser Cultura database (IT), created as part of the Interreg IIIB Walser Alps project, is conceived as a computerized documentation centre for the collection, dissemination and enhancement of the Walser cultural heritage and the creation of an information system capable of safeguarding and enhancing a inherits of universal relevance and promotes its diffusion and knowledge. The site

contains heterogeneous materials, period photographs, songs from oral tradition, ethno-anthropological assets, toponyms, bibliography.
https://www.wir-walser.ch/home; http://www.walser-cultura.it/

NA. VIA CLAUDIA AUGUSTA

After two thousand years of history, Via Claudia Augusta, the ancient Roman road that led from the Po River lowlands and the Adriatic Sea all the way to Bavaria and the Danube, is enjoying a renaissance. With the end of conflict and a united Europe, the Via Claudia Augusta has become a bridge joining and blending cultures, places and emotions. It is a symbolic route that spans three nations, each with its own diverse landscape and traditions, artistic treasures and culinary specialities, marked by a more approachable, youthful and ecologically sustainable tourism. The itinerary invites us to leave our watches at home to explore places and landscapes from a fresh perspective, attentive to the colours, subtle nuances, fragrances and flavours of the history that permeates everything here.
http://www.viaclaudia.org/en/introduction.html

NA. VIA ALPINA

The Via Alpina is a gathering of five mountain trails crossing the eight countries in the Alps. The project was initiated in 1999 and carried out thanks to two consecutive Interreg project. By connecting all the countries of the Alps, it offers a unique way to witness the natural and cultural diversity of the Alpine Region. The Via Alpina is a border-crossing hiking route through all eight Alpine countries from Trieste/I to Monaco. It is composed of five long-distance hiking trails (red, blue, yellow, violet, green) which are meeting places and experience paths that showcase Alpine living and nature spaces, and constitutes a physical link between the Alpine countries.
The Via Alpina was created in the year 2000 by a group of alpine associations and public authorities led by the French association Grande Traversée des Alpes (GTA). CIPRA International has taken over the co-ordination in 2014 aiming to develop an hiking offer that integrates the features of sustainable development.

The Via Alpina passes through Italy, Slovenia, Austria, Germany, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, France and Monaco comprises a total of 342 day stages over its five trails; has a total length of 5'000 kilometres; leads from the Mediterranean coast (gulf of Trieste, Côte d'Azur) up to 3000 metres altitude (in the Ötztal Alps).

Beyond the tourist product, the Via Alpina is also a tangible symbol for the common Alpine identity and a platform for the realisation of trans-border initiatives for the sustainable development of the Alps. The Via Alpina has given rise to many pilot projects, such as an international quality guide for long-distance trails, an academic impact evaluation or a handbook about hiking as an instrument for the environmental education of the youth. The Via Alpina is also officially involved in the implementation of projects promoted by the Alpine Convention. In 2017, new strategic orientations were developed for the Via Alpina, which are now to be implemented jointly with all partners.

Hardly any other mountain region in the world is as rich in contrast as the Alps. We see the Via Alpina as a red thread between existing long-distance hiking initiatives and as a perfect showcase for the positive and also negative developments in the Alps. On foot the impressions are more numerous and formative than on fast journeys. Hikers to the north of the Via Alpina, for example, will notice the still impressive but shrinking glaciers as well as the ever-growing ski resort infrastructure, while in the southern part of the Via Alpina they will often walk through deserted valleys. A hike along the Via Alpina makes problems throughout the Alps tangible: climate change, mass tourism, rural exodus, energy revolution, land degradation, social inequality. Yet a sheer unbelievable beauty and diversity of nature, culture and languages still exist in the Alps. This is the most important reason for a hike along the Via Alpina.
www.via-alpina.org
https://www.instagram.com/viaalpina/
https://www.facebook.com/viaalpina
https://www.cipra.org/en/about/networks/via-alpina

NA. THE ALPINE TOWN OF THE YEAR ASSOCIATION
Is an association of alpine towns which have been awarded the title of "Alpine Town of the Year". The title commends an alpine town for its particular commitment to the implementation of the Alpine Convention and is awarded by an international Jury.

The principal concern of the Alpine Convention is to combine measures for the protection of the alpine region with a sustainable, trend-setting development of the regions themselves. The fact that the Alpine Convention draws on alpine towns for its contents is of key significance given that around two thirds of the population in the Alps live in urbanised regions, which in turn represent only around 40% of the total alpine area. So while the Alps are still clearly rural in terms of surface area, the population - and with it the economy - is already predominantly urban. Here nature and culture, ecology and economy collide head on, and it is the stated principal objective of the Alpine Town of the Year to communicate that idea to the population at large.
https://www.alpenstaedte.org/en/about-us

NA-EP. CRinMA Cultural resources in the mountain areas
The protection of the cultural heritage in the mountain areas is of vital importance for ensuring the cultural diversity of Europe and saving local traditions and customs for the next generations. However, this field is often neglected and local communities have insufficient potential and funds to ensure sustainable use of cultural heritage. Therefore, more support should be provided at the regional level. The aim of CRinMA is to improve the regional policies in order to provide better support for the mountain areas with intangible and tangible cultural resources.
Based on the previous profound experience in the implementation of the cross-border programmes, the CRinMA partners have decided to focus on the mountain border areas, assuming that many of the challenges are similar within one geographical area on both sides of the border (or regardless of the borders). All CRinMA regions are eligible within at least one cross-border programme and face challenges typical for the border areas. At the same time, all CRinMA partners can influence the stakeholders from both sides of the borders, which will bring a new dimension to the project.
The thematic focus of the project will lie on the heritage related to the mountain folk architecture, traditions, customs, and skills. In some European regions, including Malopolska, Podkarpackie and Presovsky Kraj that kind of heritage is protected by open-air museums. The partners would like to find the solutions on how to make those museums more lively and better integrated with the local communities, which would lead to better promotion and protection not only of tangible, but also of intangible heritage. The exchange of experiences and transfer of good practices between different regions and mountain areas (Carpats, Alps and Gêres-Xurés Cross Border Park) will lead to the elaboration of practical solutions to facilitate valorisation and better protection of the precious cultural heritage in those remote localities.
https://www.interregeurope.eu/crinma/news/

EP. ALPFOODWAY. A cross-disciplinary, transnational and participative approach to Alpine food cultural heritage
WHY ALPFOODWAY. Foodways are socioeconomic and cultural practices related to food production and consumption. Food heritage is a strong identity source for Alpine populations. It goes beyond products to include productive landscapes and traditional knowledge on production techniques, consumption customs and rituals, and the transmission of ancient wisdom. Depopulation, ageing population and globalization put Alpine food heritage at risk.

WHAT WE DO. The project will create a sustainable development model for peripheral mountain areas based on the preservation/valorization of Alpine Space cultural food heritage and on the adoption of innovative marketing and governance tools. It will also foster the emerging of a transnational alpine identity based on the common cultural values expressed in food heritage. Project outputs include Vision Paper, Value Charta, mapping of traditional food heritage, creation of a cutting edge online inventory, courses and educational units, and a cultural exchange platform based on events and tourist tours.

The project is innovative since it links food heritage with marketing and consumer culture and does not consider heritage communities as passive recipients of 'top-down' interventions, instead it supports 'bottom-up' mobilization processes based on engagement/empowerment of the citizenship. The project also contributes to a recent international debate (the 2003 UNESCO Convention) on the Intangible Cultural Heritage. All Alpine administrations are experimenting safeguard and valorization solutions – albeit in a fragmented and uncoordinated way. The project will develop this theme at a scale – the entire Alps – never attempted before. As future perspective, the Alpine community could aspire to inscribe the Alpine food heritage on the UNESCO intangible cultural heritage list as a traditional foodway.

AlpFoodway works to preserve traditional foodways and turn them into assets for sustainable local development at a scale – the entire Alps – never attempted before. To attain this, we have set five specific goals:

- Raise awareness that Alpine food heritage is an asset for peripheral AS areas and can become a driver for sustainable development both at the local and EUSALP level, if sustained by appropriate policies.
- Develop innovative approaches for passing on traditional know how and for marketing mountain products and related experiences.
- Establish new ways to manage cultural contents online.
- Let a transnational Alpine identity based on traditional food heritage emerge.
- Lay the bases for seeking UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage status for Alpine food traditions.

WHO BENEFITS FROM ALPFOODWAY. The project will benefit heritage communities, local development professionals and organizations, cultural institutions, local, regional and national authorities.
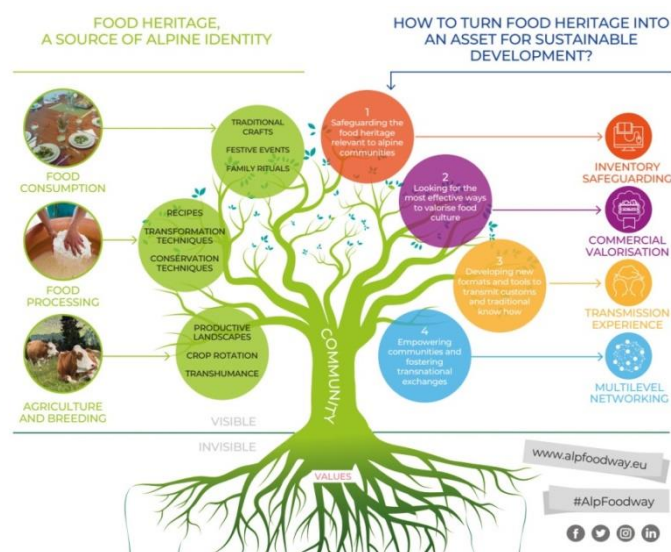
The project contributes to Priority 3 (Liveable Alpine Space) as it valorizes Alpine Space cultural/natural heritage and enhances protection and conservation of the Alpine Space.

https://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/alpfoodway/en/home

EP. COMMONLANDS: CULTURAL COMMUNITY MAPPING IN ALPINE AREAS, Parco Nazionale Val Grande, Italy
European Heritage Europa Nostra Award, May 21, 2019 | Education Training and Awareness-Raising | Italy | Piedmont

Commonlands is the result of the efforts of 250 inhabitants from ten mountain communities in the Val-Grande National Park, a protected area of remarkable natural beauty located in Piedmont, in the north of Italy. Commencing in November 2016, the initiative activated local mountain communities in co-designing and managing cultural and touristic initiatives and enhancing local tangible and intangible heritage. The participants were involved in the community mapping of the most significant cultural assets of their communities, producing the

FOOD HERITAGE, A SOURCE OF ALPINE IDENTITY

HOW TO TURN FOOD HERITAGE INTO AN ASSET FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

comprehensive Commonlands Map along with 10 individual maps for each of the communities. The initiative was funded by its partners, the ARS.UNI.VCO Association, the Val Grande National Park, the Piedmont Region and the VCO Community Foundation.

The aspirations of the project were manifold: it would be a way to familiarise communities with the local tangible and intangible heritage, as well as the cultural identity and history of the region they inhabited; it would stimulate local initiatives promoting cultural and touristic events; it would map out the region in order to open it up to sustainable cultural tourism; and finally, it would preserve the memories and experiences of inhabitants, storing the gathered knowledge in a digital community archive. This digital archive includes interviews, images, videos, and documents which were shared by the inhabitants.

Tangible and intangible heritage from the past of the communities was given visibility through an innovative digital-storytelling platform. Community-based tourism initiatives stimulated dialogue, sharing, and collaboration between inhabitants and institutional actors. The initiative stimulates permanent process of awareness-raising and activation of communities in sustainable local development. "This project brings a fresh understanding of a landscape through community engagement with it," the jury said, "it has a clear agenda with a collaborative digital impact and raises community awareness in depopulated areas of the importance of regeneration and the reinforces a sense of place and local identity."

http://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/commonlands-cultural-community-mapping-alpine-areas-parco-nazionale-val-grande-italy/
http://www.comuniterrae.it/

EP. SMART VILLAGES

The project aims to bring together different stakeholders to improve quality of life in villages and small cities of the Alpine Space through more sustainable integrated solutions facilitated by Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

This includes applied innovation, better planning, a more participatory approach, higher energy efficiency and better transport solutions involving different levels.

Alpine space rural communities are deprived of highly needed jobs, good provision of services as well as a favourable climate for entrepreneurship and social innovation, which result in a brain drain. Digitalization is a promising approach to counter the situation. However, the digital divide between rural and urban areas has even increased in the last years. A Smart Village (SV) approach for

mountain areas could unlock the potential of local actors to make their region a more attractive place to live and work.

The project aims to apply a SV approach and bring together - in so-called Regional Stakeholder Groups (policy makers, business, academia and civil society) to improve the framework for innovation through new forms of stakeholder involvement facilitated by Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

The project contributes to better framework conditions for innovation on two aspects – the organizational and societal part (working with Regional Stakeholder Groups) and the technical part (Digital Exchange Platform and Toolbox with new digital products) and combining the strengths of both sides.

https://www.alpine-region.eu/projects/smart-villages

EP. ALPBC - ALPINE BUILDING CULTURE

Capitalising knowledge on Alpine Building Culture by performing regional smart planning and consultancy strategies for sustainable development
Co-financed by: Alpine Space Programme, European Regional Development Fund 2012-15
Priority axis: Competitiveness and Attractiveness of the Alpine Space
Aim: Capitalising knowledge on Alpine Building Culture by performing regional smart planning and consultancy strategies for sustainable development and closed loop economies in the Alpine Space.

The project AlpBC strived to define and implement strategies and measures to preserve and advance Alpine Building Culture in the broader context of territorial development and ecologic sustainability, especially taking into account energy efficiency and decrease of CO2 emissions. Side by side with this, AlpBC aimed at enabling local actors to capitalize on building culture as an outstanding cultural asset that serves as a source of regional identity and economic development, especially in regional closed loop economies. Central results of AlpBC in integrating these fields were: a) Creation of a transnational knowledge base for projects combining energy planning, sustainability issues and spatial planning in a holistic approach, including supporting ICT tools. b) Implementation of inter-municipal planning strategies as a bundling of interests of rural municipalities to allow for more ambitious and integrative planning processes. c) Launching of initiatives in diverse fields of action that are centred on and embedded into regional energy autonomy attempts, thereby defining ways of operationalizing energy autonomy strategies for regional policy. d) Establishment of networks of stakeholders and target groups around AlpHouse Centers as hubs and innovation incubators, including in-house innovation support for SMEs. e) Publications, events and qualification offers to disseminate these concepts and strategic approaches among the professional community and general public.
www.alpbc.eu
http://www.alpine-space.org/2007-2013/projects/projects/detail/AlpBC/show/index.html#project_outputs

EP. WALSER ALPS - modernity and tradition in the heart of Europe The Walser settlements area - a laboratory to experience a post-industrial sustainable Alpine society in a bottom-up process
The minority of Walser settle dispersed over six countries in the heart of Europe. Most of them suffer under economic disadvantage, but have conserved traditional rural knowledge. The Walser Alps project aims to experience - as a pilot action based on the Agenda 21 process - the transfer from a pre-industrial to a sustainable competitive post-industrial society integrating youth. Landscape is the link between, on one hand, spatial development and, on the other hand, culture. Culture is a key feature for minorities to define and defend their characteristics, specificities and sustainability (Agenda 21). Landscape is a concrete, appropriate medium to integrate youth. The method consists of confronting images to let the Walser population face the "mirror" of their own social features. Matching interior and exterior images can raise consciousness to forecast future developments. Those experiences will serve for a spatial planning tool and for an exchange of best practice with other minorities.

Project Partners: Regione Autonoma Valle d'Aosta (italy), Commune de Vallorcine (France), Communità Montana Alta Valle del Lys (Italy), Provincia del Verbano-Cusio-Ossola (Italy), Provincia di Vercelli (Italy), Vorarlberger Walservereinigung (Austria), Comune di Bosco Gurin (Switzerland), Gemeinde Triesenberg (Liechtenstein), Internationale Vereinigung für Walsertum–IvfW (Switzerland), Joch-Susten-Grimselpass -Vereinigung (Switzerland), Walservereinigung Graubünden (Switzerland).

http://www.alpine-space.org/2000-2006/walseralps.html;   http://www.walser-alps.eu/;
http://www.walser-cultura.it/; http://www.wir-walser.ch/; http://www.walsermuseum.ch/

EP. HIKING IN OCCITANIA. In September 2008 a trail system was inaugurated, called *Occitania a pè* and consisting of 60 itineraries. The starting point is at Vinadio in Valle Stura and the arrival is at Vielha in Val d'Aran. The trails cross the Alps and the Pyrenees, winding over the hills and through the valleys, past historic sites, conveying the emotion of the poetry of the troubadours and a language that is a human heritage.

www.chambradoc.it/LeAdesioni.page; www.chambradoc.it/cmgv/progettocmgv.page

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ASSISTANCE WHICH IS NEEDED IN ORDER TO SUPPORT THE CREATION OF A NETWORK TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR A CULTURAL ROUTE DEDICATED TO MOUNTAIN HERITAGE

The creation of a European Cultural Routes on Walser and Occitan Cultural Heritage could be a positive choice for the following reasons:

✓ The Walser and Occitan culture are firstly of scientific and museographical interest. This interest is in line with the task of objectively qualifying what the Walser are.

✓ The Walser and Occitan culture may represent a potential for developing tourism. Many of the Alpine cultural sites have clearly understood the advantages of promoting the "traditions" (a term that is often used) associated with the Walser and Occitan people that could meet the current aspirations of the tourist market.

✓ Reinvestment in Walser and Occitan culture in tourism projects could be one of the main aims pursued by the Cultural Route. Underpinning this development has been the realisation that Walser and Occitan culture produces, in addition to a particular landscape maintained by agriculture, traditions that can only be incorporated in a tourism economy that is "sustainable.

✓ The Walser and Occitan may represent the opportunity for an identity celebration, as reflected in the proclamation of a trans-national feeling. This sentiment is prominent in the three-yearly folk gathering of the Walsertreffen (20th International Walser Meeting 2019, Lötschental, Switzerland) and also at the Roumiage, the Festenal (Sancto Lucio de Coumboscuro, Piedmont, Italy), a meeting of European music and traditions, exhibitions and conferences on the linguistic minorities.

✓ The Walser and the Occitan are a pretext for seeking practical solutions for the populations living in these communities. In this context Walser society represents the quintessence of all alpine societies; it could serve as an example for other "minorities" or for other mountain regions. The Walser example raises questions concerning the attraction that Walser sites may hold, particularly for young people living there.

✓ The Walser and Occitan intangible heritage are seen as guardians of "sustainable" knowledge about the environment, capable of being re-used today by other societies. The experience gained by the Walser and Occitan regions has been designed as a contribution to the future of "remote regions and to forging a model for "European society" and for other linguistic minorities.

✓ The experience gained can offer a good practice to promote the Walser and Occitan cultural landscape as a long-term basis for the future for remote alpine regions and can be an economic potential of the area's young people be invested in the touristic development of peripheral valleys.

Alpine Cultural Routes: Implementation priorities

For any Cultural Route there are many general elements that need to be taken into account. The recommendations for defining an Alpine Cultural Route derive from the bibliographic research carried out for this study, the references for which can be found in Annex 3[13].

Some major issues are the recommendations on which to work and to be defined in detail in the continuation of the research:

RECOMMENDATIONS:
- Institutional Framework
- Awareness Raising
- Product Development Branding
- Cultural Tourism And Visibility
- Monitoring System
- Capacity Building And Research
- Educational Exchanges And Approaches
- Cultural Routes' Priorities

Following points should be addressed in the development of a Cultural Route:

DEFINE the Goals:
- ✓ Development goals and objectives need to be made clearly visible to decision-makers and stakeholders and the benefit must be achievable to make it attractive to potential partners. Here a well working cooperation among actors is necessary and one of the tasks for an executive part of a dedicated network.

DEVISE Inventory-feasibility study:
- ✓ The inventory should include a list of assets and include as much information as available. The provided list has tried to consider the accessibility et al. in this first step, but clearly further measures are necessary.

PREARRANGE Market potential:
- ✓ To show potential partners and decision-makers the benefits of being included in such a network in-depth market research on the attractiveness of the theme, the touristic target groups and potential economic impact is needed.

PREPARE a plan for the Commercialisation of the itinerary:
- ✓ Many individual steps are necessary to bring the Cultural Route from a valuable data collection of potential partners to an itinerary, where major point as accessibility and assets have been checked with partners and suggested stops and tourist facilities are chosen based on that. Here funding mechanisms are necessary and appropriate monitoring tools to assure the attractiveness for partners in a long-term.

---

[13] Also from the personal experience gained on the subject of the evaluation of the European Cultural Routes.

Annex 1. Alpine Cultural Heritage: lists of UNESCO site, Global Geoparks and Cultural Routes

World Heritage | The Alpine List

The Alps make up a cultural heritage of enormous value and a set of mountain ecosystems that are not yet fully represented in the UNESCO World Heritage Site list.

There are 17 World Heritage Sites in the Alps, located in Italy, Germany, Switzerland and Austria, three of which are cross-border sites.

Only 4 of these are natural heritage sites:

(2001) Jungfrau - Aletsch – Bietschhorn (Switzerland) The site provides an outstanding example of the formation of the High Alps, including the most glaciated part of the mountain range and the largest glacier in Eurasia. http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1037

(2003) Monte San Giorgio (Switzerland - Italy). The pyramid-shaped, wooded mountain of Monte San Giorgio beside Lake Lugano is regarded as the best fossil record of marine life from the Triassic Period (245–230 million years ago).

(2007) Swiss Tectonic Arena Sardona (Switzerland) The Glarus Alps are glaciated mountains rising dramatically above narrow river valleys and are the site of the largest post-glacial landslide in the Central Alpine region.

http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1179

(2009) Dolomiti (Italy). The site of the Dolomites comprises a mountain range in the northern Italian Alps, numbering 18 peaks which rise to above 3,000 metres and cover 141,903 ha. It features some of the most beautiful mountain landscapes anywhere, with vertical walls, sheer cliffs and a high density of narrow, deep and long valleys.

http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1237

While 15 are cultural heritage sites, located in Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Slovenia:

(1979) Rock Drawings in Valcamonica (Italy).

Valcamonica, situated in the Lombardy plain, has one of the world's greatest collections of prehistoric petroglyphs – more than 140,000 symbols and figures carved in the rock over a period of 8,000 years and depicting themes connected with agriculture, navigation, war and magic.

http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/94

(1983) Benedictine Convent of St John at Müstair (Switzerland).

The Convent of Müstair, which stands in a valley in the Grisons, is a good example of Christian monastic renovation during the Carolingian period. It has Switzerland's greatest series of figurative murals, painted c. A.D. 800, along with Romanesque frescoes and stuccoes.

http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/269

(1983) Pilgrimage Church of Wies (Germany)

Miraculously preserved in the beautiful setting of an Alpine valley, the Church of Wies (1745–54), the work of architect Dominikus Zimmermann, is a masterpiece of Bavarian Rococo – exuberant, colourful and joyful.

http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/271

(1983) Abbey of St Gall (Germany).

The Convent of St Gall, a perfect example of a great Carolingian monastery, was, from the 8th century to its secularization in 1805, one of the most important in Europe. Its library is one of the richest and oldest in the world and contains precious manuscripts such as the earliest-known architectural plan drawn on parchment. From 1755 to 1768, the conventual area was rebuilt in Baroque style. The cathedral and the library are the main features of this remarkable architectural complex, reflecting 12 centuries of continuous activity.

http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/268

(1996) Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg (Austria).
Salzburg has managed to preserve an extraordinarily rich urban fabric, developed over the period from the Middle Ages to the 19th century when it was a city-state ruled by a prince-archbishop. Its Flamboyant Gothic art attracted many craftsmen and artists before the city became even better known through the work of the Italian architects Vincenzo Scamozzi and Santini Solari, to whom the centre of Salzburg owes much of its Baroque appearance. This meeting-point of northern and southern Europe perhaps sparked the genius of Salzburg's most famous son, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, whose name has been associated with the city ever since.
http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/784

(1997) Hallstatt-Dachstein / Salzkammergut Cultural Landscape (Austria).
Human activity in the magnificent natural landscape of the Salzkammergut began in prehistoric times, with the salt deposits being exploited as early as the 2nd millennium BC. This resource formed the basis of the area's prosperity up to the middle of the 20th century, a prosperity that is reflected in the fine architecture of the town of Hallstatt.
http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/806

(1998) Semmering Railway (Austria).
The Semmering Railway, built over 41 km of high mountains between 1848 and 1854, is one of the greatest feats of civil engineering from this pioneering phase of railway building. The high standard of the tunnels, viaducts and other works has ensured the continuous use of the line up to the present day. It runs through a spectacular mountain landscape and there are many fine buildings designed for leisure activities along the way, built when the area was opened up due to the advent of the railway.
http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/785

(1999) City of Graz – Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg (Austria).
The City of Graz – Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg bear witness to an exemplary model of the living heritage of a central European urban complex influenced by the secular presence of the Habsburgs and the cultural and artistic role played by the main aristocratic families. They are a harmonious blend of the architectural styles and artistic movements that have succeeded each other from the Middle Ages until the 18th century, from the many neighbouring regions of Central and Mediterranean Europe. They embody a diversified and highly comprehensive ensemble of architectural, decorative and landscape examples of these interchanges of influence.
http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/931

(2000) Three Castles, Defensive Wall and Ramparts of the Market-Town of Bellinzona (Italy).
The Bellinzona site consists of a group of fortifications grouped around the castle of Castelgrande, which stands on a rocky peak looking out over the entire Ticino valley. Running from the castle, a series of fortified walls protect the ancient town and block the passage through the valley. A second castle (Montebello) forms an integral part of the fortifications, while a third but separate castle (Sasso Corbaro) was built on an isolated rocky promontory south-east of the other fortifications.
http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/884

(2000) Monastic Island of Reichenau (Germany).
The island of Reichenau on Lake Constance preserves the traces of the Benedictine monastery, founded in 724, which exercised remarkable spiritual, intellectual and artistic influence. The churches of St Mary and Marcus, St Peter and St Paul, and St George, mainly built between the 9th and 11th centuries, provide a panorama of early medieval monastic architecture in central Europe. Their wall paintings bear witness to impressive artistic activity.
http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/974

(2003) Sacri Monti of Piedmont and Lombardy (Italy).
The nine *Sacri Monti* (Sacred Mountains) of northern Italy are groups of chapels and other architectural features created in the late 16th and 17th centuries and dedicated to different aspects of the Christian faith. In addition to their symbolic spiritual meaning, they are of great beauty by virtue of the skill with which they have been integrated into the surrounding natural landscape of hills, forests and lakes.
http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1068

(2007) Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe (Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Ukraine).
This transboundary property stretches over 12 countries. Since the end of the last Ice Age, European Beech spread from a few isolated refuge areas in the Alps, Carpathians, Dinarides, Mediterranean and Pyrenees over a short period of a few thousand years in a process that is still ongoing. The successful expansion across a whole continent is related to the tree's adaptability and tolerance of different climatic, geographical and physical conditions.
http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1133

(2008) Rhaetian Railway in the Albula / Bernina Landscapes (Italy, Switzerland).
Rhaetian Railway in the Albula / Bernina Landscapes, brings together two historic railway lines that cross the Swiss Alps through two passes. Opened in 1904, the Albula line in the north western part of the property is 67 km long. It features an impressive set of structures including 42 tunnels and covered galleries and 144 viaducts and bridges. The 61 km Bernina pass line features 13 tunnels and galleries and 52 viaducts and bridges.
http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1276

(2011) Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alps (Austria, Italy, France, Switzerland, Slovenia, Germany).
This serial property of 111 small individual sites encompasses the remains of prehistoric pile-dwelling (or stilt house) settlements in and around the Alps built from around 5000 to 500 B.C. on the edges of lakes, rivers or wetlands.
http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1363

(2011) Longobards in Italy. Places of the Power (568-774 A.D.) (Italy).
The Longobards in Italy, Places of Power, comprises seven groups of important buildings (including fortresses, churches, and monasteries) throughout the Italian Peninsula. They testify to the high achievement of the Lombards, who migrated from northern Europe and developed their own specific culture in Italy where they ruled over vast territories in the 6th to 8th centuries. The Lombards synthesis of architectural styles marked the transition from Antiquity to the European Middle Ages, drawing on the heritage of Ancient Rome, Christian spirituality, Byzantine influence and Germanic northern Europe. The serial property testifies to the Lombards' major role in the spiritual and cultural development of Medieval European Christianity, notably by bolstering the monastic movement.
http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1318

Biosfera Unesco | Man and the Biosphere Programme
Launched in 1971, UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) is an Intergovernmental Scientific Programme that aims to establish a scientific basis for the improvement of relationships between people and their environments.
MAB combines the natural and social sciences, economics and education to improve human livelihoods and the equitable sharing of benefits, and to safeguard natural and managed ecosystems, thus promoting innovative approaches to economic development that are socially and culturally appropriate, and environmentally sustainable.

Its World Network of Biosphere Reserves currently counts 701 sites in 124 countries all over the world, including 21 transboundary sites.

Austria
Grosses Walsertal (2000)
Six villages within a single alpine valley form the Grosses Walsertal Biosphere Reserve, situated in the western part of Austria. The valley is a prime example of a living cultural landscape, where, since its occupation by the Walser people in the 13th and 14th centuries, a system of highly adapted mountain farming, pasture and extensive forestry has been developed.
http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/biosphere-reserves/europe-north-america/austria/grosses-walsertal/

Wienerwald 2005
The Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve covers an undulating landscape in the area between the Northern Alps and the Pannonic Basin, to the west of the city of Vienna. On the east slopes of the Wienerwald there is a geological rupture zone, with hot springs and impressive marine terraces of a former sea. The limestone part of the Wienerwald is dominated by steep and rugged limestone and dolomite rock formations and sharply cut gullies.
http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/biosphere-reserves/europe-north-america/austria/wienerwald/

Salzburger Lungau & Kärntner Nockberge 2012
The Salzburger Lungau & Kärntner Nockberge Biosphere Reserve provides a representative example of inner-alpine landscapes with high mountains and deep valleys. It is a richly structured landscape ranging from 600 m to 3,000 m above sea level and encompasses typical ecosystems of the Central Alps such as mountain meadows and marshes with great biodiversity. The human inhabitants have profited from this biodiversity for millennia, currently primarily in the form of ecotourism.
http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/biosphere-reserves/europe-north-america/austria/salzburger-lungau-kaerntner-nockberge/

UNESCO Global Geoparks
UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. Their bottom-up approach of combining conservation with sustainable development while involving local communities is becoming increasingly popular. At present, there are 147 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 41 countries.
http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/earth-sciences/unesco-global-geoparks/
http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/earth-sciences/unesco-global-geoparks/list-of-unesco-global-geoparks/

Austria
Nature and Geopark Styrian Eisenwurzen
The Nature Park Eisenwurzen is located in the Austrian province of Styria. Geologically, it is part of the Northern Calcareous Alps. Its rocks, consisting primarily of limestones and dolomites, were deposited over a time interval of 250 million years, from Late Permian to Present. They were faulted, folded and uplifted during Alpine orogeny. Glaciers of the Great Ice Age and rivers provided the final touches in modelling the unique landscape out of the rocks. Geologically especially important sites include the type section of the Anisian stage of the Triassic and the Cretaceous/Palaeogene rocks of the Gams area.
http://www.globalgeopark.org/aboutGGN/list/Austria/6403.htm

Carnic Alps Geopark
The 827 km2 Geopark is located in the southwest of the Province of Carinthia at the border to Italy. It comprises the Carnic Alps, the Gailtal Alps and the southern parts of the Lienz Dolomites. The mountain chains with altitudes up to 2800 m in-cluding the Gail and Lesachtal Valleys in between extend in east-west direction from the city of Villach in Middle Carinthia to the border of Eastern Tyrol.
http://www.geopark-karnische-alpen.at/Startseite.1447.0.html?&L=2

Ore of the Alps Global Geopark
Situated 50 kilometres south of Salzburg, in the so-called "Inner Mountains", the Geopark covers 211 km2 and belongs to the communities of Bischofshofen, St. Veit, Hüttau and Mühlbach am Hochkönig. The human history of this region goes back to the Copper and Bronze-Age, and is closely linked with the area's mineral resources, specially iron ore and gold. Ore of the Alps is mainly situated in the Graywacke Zone, consisting of clastic rocks about 541 to 252 million years old that arerich in mineral deposits. The northern fringe belongs to the Northern Calcareous Alps, the southern one to the Central Alps. The site is characterised by carbonate cliffs, waterfalls, gorges, springs, rock fall terraces, cirque lakes, and roches moutonées. The plateau of the highest peak in the Geopark, the Hochkönig (2,941 m), is covered by a glacier.
http://www.globalgeopark.org/aboutGGN/list/Austria/8907.htm

France
Park Naturel Régional du Luberon
Situated in the south of the France, in Provence, the Luberon Geopark covers a surface area of around 1,840 km²; this territory is inhabited by more than 156,000 people.
The Luberon area presents remarkable natural and cultural heritages that justified the creation of a Regional Nature Park in 1977. In 1987, a Geological Nature Reserve was created in its territory in order to protect an exceptional geological heritage.
http://www.globalgeopark.org/aboutGGN/list/France/6428.htm

Reserve Géologique de Haute Provence
The Reserve Geologique de Haute-Provence is located in the Alpes de Haute-Provence and Var dpartements of southeastern France. Its centre is the little town of Digne-les-Bains. This region corresponds to the northern part of Provence, where it meets the Alps, an upland area with altitudes ranging from 400 to 2960 metres. The result is a great diversity of natural environments with the lowest lying areas in the wine and olive-growing zones and the highest peaks in the Alpine level. The Haute-Provence Geological Reserve is situated in the external part of the Occidental Alps: at the border between the domain of southern subalpine chains affected by middle-scale overthrusting with a generally South Vergence and the limestone Provence, whose tectonic evolution is a result of early phases and which is less affected by alpine orogenesis per se.
http://www.globalgeopark.org/aboutGGN/list/France/6429.htm

Bauges GeoparkWebSite
art of the Bauges Regional Park, the Bauges Geopark is an area of middle elevation mountains in the north-western French Alps. From afar, the area looks like a rocky fortress; a preserved natural island emerging from an urbanized surrounding sea. The massif features cliffs of resistant limestone and sedimentary rocks, which form perched synclines and give the Bauges a distinct landform. Major tectonic fault lines witness to strong mountain-building processes and the karst landscape is crisscrossed by large and small defiles in the cretaceous limestone that create wetlands, lakes, springs and caves. The famous "Savoyarde" cliff is an impressively folded limestone deposit at the southern tip of the area, resembling the folk headdress traditionally worn by women in the region.
http://www.globalgeopark.org/aboutGGN/list/France/6617.htm
http://www.parcdesbauges.com/fr/

Chablais Geopark
The Chablais Geopark lies in a remarkable natural landscape which has impregnated the culture and the life of both its inhabitants and numerous visitors. Traditional architecture, the working of the land, the high mountain farms, the stories and legends, the natural riches of the Evian and Thonon mineral waters ….. are witness to these strong links between man and nature. The Chablais Geopark and the local authorities of the Chablais are promoting these riches across a series of location. The landscape recounts an ancient history over 250 million years old.
http://www.globalgeopark.org/aboutGGN/list/France/6618.htm

Germany
Geopark Swabian Albs

The chain of the Jurassic highlands stretches through a big part of Central Europe from France and Switzerland to Germany. The Swabian Jura - also called Swabian Alb - is the central part of this chain between the Swiss and the Franconian Jura. Bordered by the Black Forest and the Baar region in the south-west, the upper Neckar valley to the north, the Ries crater to the east and the river Danube to the south, the Swabian Alb extends across South-West Germany over a length of approximately 220 km and a width of up to 80 km. The evidence of the Jurassic time dominates the area, but older and younger periods are also represented. Altogether they provide an outstanding variety of geological, paleontological and ecological features.
http://www.globalgeopark.org/aboutGGN/list/Germany/6432.htm
https://www.geopark-alb.de/de/index.php

Italy
Parco del Beigua
The Beigua Geopark territory is situated in Liguria Region in north-western Italy.
It includes the overall surface classified as "Beigua Regional Nature Park", besides a broad portion of the territory functionally linked to the Beigua Regional Natural Park itself, representing a district made up of ten municipal territories with a total extention of 39.230 hectares.
The Beigua Geopark corresponds to one of the most interesting areas in Liguria from the scientific, aesthetic and educational points of view and it is extremely important with regards to the reconstruction of the geological history of Italy, especially to understand the evolution of the Alps range and of its relations with the Apennine range.
http://www.globalgeopark.org/aboutGGN/list/Italy/6440.htm
http://www.parcobeigua.it/

Sesia - Val Grande Geopark
Val Grande: the largest wilderness area in Italy, but also an outdoor museum of the ancient civilization of the Alps. The abandonment of the alpine summer pastures and of the deforestation practice led to the return to wilderness: nature becomes the master. The richness and variety of the vegetation represent one of the greatest attractions of the area, with impenetrable woods and a "very colored" flora. A Park with many secrets: timid animals, steep deep valleys, crystal-clear waters in gorges protected by overhanging walls, and charming views, from Mt. Rosa to Lago Maggiore.
http://www.globalgeopark.org/aboutGGN/list/Italy/8437.htm
http://www.parks.it/parco.nazionale.valgrande/Eindex.php

Slovenia
Idrija GeoparkWebSite
The Idrija Global Geopark is situated in the western part of Slovenia, about 60 km from Ljubljana. It was constituted by a very pronounced fracture in the Earth's crust, one of the strongest in the southern Alps running from Croatia, 120 km across the entire territory of Slovenia, and into Italy. This fault allowed mineral-rich liquids from the deep to deposit mineral resources at higher levels closer to the surface which have been exploited for more than 500 years. The important mining history of Idrija has been inseparably linked to a mercury mine, which was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2012 as the Heritage of Mercury Almadén and Idrija. The identity of the area and its culture, lifestyle, education, research, industry, health and cuisine all have their roots in this exceptional ore deposit, whose discovery in 1490 led to the development of the town.
http://www.globalgeopark.org/aboutGGN/list/Slovenia/8440.htm

Slovenia-Austria
Karavanke/Karawanken Geopark
The Geopark Karavanke is a crossborder Geopark connected and devided by the mountain range with the same name. The Geopark is located between two Alpine mountains that exceed 2,000 metres: the Petzen/Peca and the Koschuta. It is marked by the rich, geological variety between the Alps and Dinarides.
https://www.geopark-karawanken.at/en/home.html

UNESCO World Heritage List. Tentative List
The Alps of the Mediterranean (France), Mercantour National Park, Department of Alpes-Maritimes

The site, which is the subject of the application, covers an area of 211,577 ha. It is a transboundary site, serial, focused on the geological values (criterion viii) and constituted by a perimeter at the same time terrestrial and marine belonging to 3 States: Monaco, Italy and France. This transboundary site is located south of the alpine chain, between the departments of the Alpes-Maritimes and Alpes-de-Haute-Provence in the south-east of France and the regions of Piedmont and Liguria in the north-west from Italy. It is a protected area that includes protected natural areas bordering such as the Alpi Marittime / Mercantour European Park, the Alpi Liguri Park, the sites of community interest of the Province of Imperia and the Department of the Alpes-Maritimes, as well as a marine area encompassing a large portion of the continental margin between Villefranche sur Mer, Monaco and Ventimiglia.

The geological origins of the region date back 400 million years; the site shows, in the same place and in a clear way, the formation of two chains of mountains (Variscan and Alpine) which are superimposed, towards -30 million years, the tectonic phenomenon of the opening of the Western Mediterranean. This last tectonic phenomenon leads to the transverse rupture of a still young mountain range, the Western Alps, through the opening of an ocean basin: the western Mediterranean. The transversal tearing of the Alps, whose geological attributes are observable at sea along the Ligurian continental margin, follows two successive events of mountain range construction (the Variscan cycle and the Alpine cycle), whose geological attributes are visible on the ground. The proposed site is therefore also exceptional because it includes on a reduced surface, at the earth/sea interface, spectacular geological witnesses of three successive tectonic cycles (so-called "Wilson cycles"). As the site is very easily accessible to the general public, it is possible to observe a great diversity of rocks and deformation structures which constitute an extraordinary testimony for science and for its transmission to the general public.
http://www.alpmediterranee.eu/index.php/en/news.html

European Cultural Routes

European Cultural Routes are located in the Alpine M
acro-region which is composed by the regions situated in seven countries (Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovenia and Switzerland).

1. ATRIUM (2014)
2. Cluniac Sites in Europe (2005)
3. Destination Napoleon (2015)
4. European Cemeteries Route (2010)
5. European Mozart Ways (2004)
6. European Route of Ceramics (2012)
7. European Route of Cistercian abbeys (2010)
8. European Route of Historic Thermal Towns (2010)
9. European Route of Industrial Heritage (2019)
10. European Routes of Emperor Charles V (2015)
11. European Routes of Jewish Heritage (2004)
12. Huguenot and Waldensian trail (2013)
13. Impressionisms Routes (2018)
14. Iron Curtain Trail (2019)
15. Iter Vitis Route (2009)
16. Le Corbusier Destinations: Architectural Promenades (2019)
17. Liberation Route Europe (2019)
18. Phoenicians' Route (2003)
19. Prehistoric Rock Art Trails (2010)
20. Réseau Art Nouveau Network (2014)
21. Routes of Reformation (2019)
22. Routes of the Olive Tree (2005)
23. Saint Martin of Tours Route (2005)
24. Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes (1987)
25. TRANSROMANICA (2007)
26. Via Charlemagne (2018)
27. Via Francigena (1994)
28. Via Habsburg (2014)

Annex 2. Proposed Methodology

Spatial Coverage: The Alpine Region contains five EU member states, Austria, France, Germany, Italy, and Slovenia. Furthermore, the region contains two non-EU countries: Liechtenstein and Switzerland, represent 48 Regions: Austria (Burgenland, Kärnten, Niederösterreich, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg, Wien), France (Auvergne-RhôneAlpes, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, Provence-Alpes-Côted'Azur), Germany (BadenWürtemberg, Bayern), Italy (Friuli Venezia Giulia, Liguria, Lombardia, Piemonte, Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano, Provincia Autonoma di Trento, Valle d'Aosta, Veneto), Switzerland (Aargau, Appenzell Ausserrhoden, Appenzell Innerrhoden, Basel-Landschaf, Basel-Stadt, Bern, Freiburg, Genf, Glarus, Graubünden, Jura, Luzern, Neuenburg, Nidwalden, Obwalden, Schafausen, Schwyz, Solothurn, St. Gallen, Tessin, Thurgau, Uri, Waadt, Wallis, Zug, Zürich).

Thematic coverage: parks and natural sites, museums, villages and towns, associations

Methodology:
- Desktop assessment:
  - Literature research in different institutions
  - Literature research in online resources
  - Investigation of thematic transnational databases (web based and local)
- Collection of data of candidates in spatial database considering:
  - The character of the sites
  - Thematic relevance and attractiveness
  - Infrastructure and touristic development
- To obtain the data:
  - Literature research
  - Individual investigation and contacting of local institutions (where possible)
  - Contacting and interviews with regional experts
- Data evaluation and selection considering:
  - Reflexion of diversity and the potential to increase visibility of Alpine region
  - The potential for development
- Compilation of desired resulting sites in list form for any thematic items

Annex 3. List of references

Statistical data and Institutions consulted

EGMUS (European Group on Museum Statistics)
Mibact-Ufficio Statistica (Italian Statistical Office)
UNESCO World Heritage Centre
UNWTO (UN World Tourism Organization)
WEF (World Economic Forum)
WTTC (World Travel and Tourism Council)

Data sources/Databases accessed JULY-SEPTEMBER 2019
OPENARCH Open-Air Museums http://openarch.eu/members
https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes-and-regional-development/flagships-eusalp
EXPEDITIO
http://expeditio.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=categories&id=82&Itemid=437&lang=en
Interreg Europe Approved Projects https://www.interregeurope.eu/discover-projects/
http://www.chambradoc.it/aTempDeLengas.page?docId=1226
https://uk.oisans.com/cultural-heritage/village-dallemont/
https://www.paysdesecrins.com/en/explore/essentials/the-ecrins-national-park/tour-des-ecrins-english-ete
https://www.espritparcnational.com/en/national-parks/ecrins-national-park?language=en
http://www.ecrins-parcnational.fr/commune/villard-reymond
https://villagesbrianconnais.com/logements-la-grave-villar-darene/
https://www.isere-tourism.com/chartreuse-regional-natural-park
http://map.parcsnationaux.fr/?=PNV
https://www.savoie-mont-blanc.com/en/offre/fiche/ferme-ecomusee-du-clos-parchet/401586
http://www.pralognan.com/150-ans-histoire.html
http://www.vanoise-parcnational.fr/en/node/105
http://www.mercantour-parcnational.fr/en/node/2
http://www.mairie-belvedere.fr/
https://museedesmerveilles.departement06.fr/presentation-13330.html
https://www.tendemerveilles.com/
https://www.vermenagna-roya.eu/it/
https://en.queyras-montagne.com/villages-queyras.html
https://www.france-voyage.com/tourism/saint-veran-1338.htm
http://www.hautes-alpes-tourisme.com/en/home-page/destinations/sectors/queyras.html
https://www.pnr-queyras.fr/
http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/biosphere-reserves/europe-north-america/italy/area-della-biosfera-del-monviso/
http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/biosphere-reserves/europe-north-america/
http://www.alpmediterranee.eu/index.php/en/news.html
http://www.viaclaudia.org/en/introduction.html
http://www.monterosavalsesia.com/valsesia_alagna_walser/en/
https://www.alagna.it/en/the-walser-today/

LIST OF REFERENCES

Actes du séminaire sur les itinéraires culturels. Enjeux de la citoyenneté et du développement durable. Bourglinster (1997), Luxembourg 9-11 octobre 1996, Council of Europe Publishing.

Actas del congreso europeo sobre itineraries culturales y rutas temáticas (1998), European Congress on Cultural Itineraries and Thematic Routes, Logroño, 20, 21 and 22 November 1997, Fundación Caja Rioja.

Actas del congreso internacional de itinerarios culturales (2001), Santiago de Compostela, 14-17 November 2000, Vol. I/II.

ARCADE (2008), Preservation of cultural heritage and local community development: History, Identity and Memory, Paris : ACTED.

Arnold P. (1998), "Zum Geleit - Die vier Entdeckungen der Walser". In Kämpfen Othmar et Volmar Schmid. Die Walser. Ein Arbeitsheft für Schulen. Brig: Vereinigung für Walsertum, pp.1-2.

ARP-PACA (2007),. Heritage tourism in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region: characteristics, typologies, expectations, Unpublished report

Ashworth, GJ. (2008), The blue-gray transition in Mediterranean tourism destinations. Nederlandse Geografische Studies, 376: 58 – 65

Bacher A. (1983), Pomatt: una valle, una comunità, una lingua. Intra: Tipolitografia Cerutti.

Bachimon, P. (2008), The cultural tourism vector of the reconquest of the wasteland. Mediterranean Mountains , 23: pp.109 – 115

Bayle, D., Humeau, M.-S. (1992), Valorize the heritage of its municipality through cultural tourism, Paris : Monitor.

Baldacci V. (2006), Gli itinerari culturali. Progettazione e comunicazione, Rimini: Guaraldi.

Battaini-Dragoni, G. (2018), Opening speech at the first meeting of Routes4U for the Adriatic and Ionian Region, Venice.

Bramwell, B. and Lane, B. (1993), "Sustainable tourism: an evolving global approach". Journal of Sustainable Tourism, 1(1), 6-16.

Beltramo S. (2011), Itinerari artistici e percorsi storici in Piemonte: la scoperta del paesaggio storico nel turismo culturale, in S. Beltramo, F. Brandajs di Martino, E. Gianasso, Offerta turistica: conoscere e valorizzare i beni culturali e naturali, in S. Levi Sacerdotti, S. Mauro, E. Gasca (eds.), Visitor Management. Turismo, Territorio, Innovazione, Celid, Torino, pp.77-80.

Beltramo S. (2011), Percorsi culturali in valle di Susa: ricerca storica e mappe interattive degli itinerari, in S. Beltramo, F. Brandajs di Martino, E. Gianasso, Offerta turistica: conoscere e valorizzare i beni culturali e naturali, in S. Levi Sacerdotti, S. Mauro, E. Gasca (eds.), Visitor Management. Turismo, Territorio, Innovazione, Celid, Torino, pp. 86-95.

Beltramo S. (2011), La promozione turistica attraverso il web: analisi sitografiche comparative, in S. Levi Sacerdotti, S. Mauro, E. Gasca (eds.), Visitor Management. Turismo, Territorio, Innovazione, Celid, Torino, pp. 111-128

Beltramo S. (2012), The pilgrimage through Saint Michael's way: the establishment of a network of European pathways and architectures, in Sustainable religious tourism. Commandments, Obstacles & Challenges, Lecce, Italy (October 26th - 28th 2012).

Beltramo S. (2012), Cultural routes and religious itineraries in Piedmont: experiences and good practices, workshop Pilgrimage Routes as Cultural and Religious Tourism European and Mediterranean Destinations: Sharing Experiences and Best Practices, Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain, 9-10th July 2012.

Beltramo S. (2012), Places, architectures and paths of faith: religious hospitality in the Italian Sanctuaries in the Middle and Modern Age, 1st EJTHR International Conference, European Journal of Tourism, Hospitality and Recreation, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 21 & 22 June, 2012, pp. 1030-1047.

Beltramo S. (2012), Religious hospitality in the Pilgrim Routes of Northern Italy in the Middle Ages, Not Losing the Pilgrimage in the Pilgrimage Tourism Experience, 4th Expert Meeting, ATLAS Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage Special Interest Group, Maynooth, Ireland, 7th-9th June.

Beltramo S (2013), "Cultural Routes and Networks of Knowledge: the identity and promotion of cultural heritage. The case study of Piedmont". AlmaTourism 08: 12-15.

Berti E. (2013), "Itinerari Culturali del Consiglio d'Europa: Nuovi Paradigmi per il Progetto Territoriale e per il Paesaggio". AlmaTourism 08: 1-12.

Berti E. and Mariotti A. (2015), "The heritage of Cultural Routes: between landscapes, traditions and identity" in Council of Europe (eds), Cultural Routes management: from theory to practice, Council of Europe Publishing, Strasbourg.

Best Cultural Destinations (2017), Stefano Dominioni, Director, European Institute of Cultural Routes, "Channels of dialogue", available at https://bestculturaldestinations.com/blog/stefano-dominioni-directoreuropean-institute-of-cultural-routes, accessed September 2019.

Briedenhann J. and Wickens E. (2004), "Tourism routes as a tool for the economic development of rural areas – vibrant hope or impossible dream?". Tourism Management No. 25, pp. 71-79.

Boniface, P. (2000), Behind the scenes: tourism, and heritage, in the periphery to the French Mediterranean coast. International Journal of Heritage Studies , 6 (2), pp. 129-144.

Book of Abstracts of the III Workshop on Sustainable Development in Mountain Environments and II International Conference on Research for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions

Bozonnet, J.-P. (1992),. Mountains and myths , Grenoble: Grenoble University Press.

Camanni E. (2002), La nuova vita delle Alpi, Torino, Bollati Boringhieri.

Castells M. (1999), L'ère de l'information. Le pouvoir de l'identité. Paris, Fayard.

Carlen L. (1973), Walserforschung: eine Bibliographie 1800-1970. Visp : Neue Buchdruckerei Visp.

Ceron, J.-P. and Dubois, G. (2003), "Tourism and sustainable development indicators: the gap between theoretical demands and practical achievements". Current Issues in Tourism, Vol. 6, No. 1, 15.

Cettolo, H. (2004), " The ways of Saint-Jacques-de-Compostelle: variation around a cultural route ". In Territorial Perspectives for Culture , Augustin, J.-P., Lefebvre A. (eds.), Pessac: House of Sciences of the Man of Aquitaine, pp. 239 - 254.

Comoli Mandracci V. (1967), Le antiche case Valsesiane: sviluppo storico di una cultura ambientale e problemi della sua tutela e valorizzazione, Società Valsesiana di cultura, Novara.

Comoli Mandracci V. , Castagno L., Mosso L. (1979), Museo Walser, Milano.

Comoli Mandracci V. (1988), L'architettura della casa nella montagna, in Id. (ed.), Piemonte, collana "L'architettura popolare in Italia", Laterza, Roma-Bari, pp. 90-128.

Comoli Mandracci V. (1988), Casa e territorio di cultura walser, in Id. (ed.), Piemonte, collana "L'architettura popolare in Italia", Laterza, Roma-Bari, pp. 137-150.

Council of Europe, Cultural Routes website, available at www.coe.int/routes, accessed September 2019.

Council of Europe, European Union Joint Programme. Fostering regional development though Cultural Routes – Routes4U Project, available at www.coe. int/routes4u, accessed September 2019.

Council of Europe (1949), Statute of the Council of Europe, London.

Council of Europe (1954), European Cultural Convention, Paris.

Council of Europe (1987), Santiago de Compostela Declaration, available at https://rm.coe. int/16806f57d6 , accessed September 2019.

Council of Europe (2000), European Landscape Convention, Florence.

Council of Europe (2005), Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society, Faro.

Council of Europe (2007), Itinerarios Culturales Europeos , 6 volumes, Grupo Editorial Planeta-Council of Europe Publishing.

Council of Europe (2008), White Paper on intercultural dialogue, CM(2008)30 final.

Council of Europe Resolution CM/Res(2013)66 confirming the establishment of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA).

Council of Europe Resolution CM/Res(2013)67, revising the rules for the award of the "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" certification, available at https:// rm.coe.int/16807b7d5b, accessed September 2019.

Council of Europe (2014), Impact of European Cultural Routes on SMEs' innovation and competitiveness, Council of Europe Publishing, Strasbourg.

Council of Europe (2015), Cultural Routes management: from theory to practice, Strasbourg, Council of Europe Publishing

Council of Europe (2018), Explore all Cultural Routes by theme, available at www.coe.int/en/web/culturalroutes/by-theme, accessed September 2019.

Council of Europe (n.d.), Routes4U Project background information, available at https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/ web/cultural-routes-and-regional-development/ resources, accessed September 2019.

Council of Europe (n.d.), The Faro Convention action plan handbook 2018-2019, available at https:// rm.coe.int/faro-convention-action-plan-handbook2018-2019/168079029c, accessed September 2019.

Crețu, Corina, Interview with the European Commissioner for Regional Policy, Routes4U Project, April 2018, available at http://bit.ly/2VBxHty, accessed September 2019.

Dal Negro S. (2004), The Decay of Language. The Case of German Dialect in the Italian Alps. Bern, Peter Lang.

Dallari F., Grandi S., Sala A.M. (2008) (eds.), Turismo e turismi tra politica e innovazione, Bologna.

Dallari F. (2009) "Spiritualità e turismo culturale tra sviluppo territoriale e Heritage. Modelli e paradigmi". In Dallari F., Trono A., Zabbini E. (eds.), I viaggi dell'Anima. Società, Culture, Heritage e Turismo. Bologna, pp. 59-69.

Dematteis G. (2002), Possibilità e limiti dello sviluppo locale. Iin Becattini G., Sforzi F. (eds.), Lezioni sullo sviluppo locale. Torino, pp. 41-63.

Dodd, D. and Hemel, A. (van) (eds) (1999), Planning cultural tourism in Europe: a presentation of theories and case studies, Boekman Foundation/Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, Amsterdam.

Dodd, D., Lyklema, M. and Dittrich van Weringh, K. (2006), A cultural component as an integral part of the EU's foreign policy?, Amsterdam.

Debarbieux B., Rudaz G. (2008), "Linking mountain identities throughout the world : the experience of Swiss communities". Cultural geographies, 15, pp. 497-517.

De Santos G. and Banaudo J. (1979), The railway of the Tende pass, Menton, Editions du Cabri.

Dominioni S. (2018), Interview on the Council of Europe Cultural Routes programme, Routes4U Project, available at www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes/-/routes4u-interview-stefano-dominioni, accessed September 2019.

Durusoy E. (2014), From an ancient road to a Cultural Route: conservation and management of the road between Milas and Labraunda, Chapter 2: Cultural Route concepts, their planning and management principles, Institut français d'études anatoliennes, Istanbul.

EUROCLIO (2015), "EUROCLIO Manifesto on high quality history heritage and citizenship education", available at http://bit.ly/2OVRTDC, accessed September 2019.

EUROPA (2017), Special Eurobarometer 466: Cultural Heritage, available at http://data.europa.eu/euodp/ en/data/dataset/S2150_88_1_466_ENG, a accessed September 2019.

European Centre for Traditional and Regional Cultures (1989), Contribution to the drafting of a charter for cultural tourism, Llangollen, Wales.

European Committee of the Regions (2018), Cultural Heritage as a strategic resource for more cohesive and sustainable regions in the EU", SEDEC/VI-035, 129th plenary session, 16 and 17 May.

European Commission (2007), Communication from the Commission. Agenda for a sustainable and competitive European tourism. COM(2007) 621 final.

European Commission (2010), Europe 2020. A European strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, available at http://bit.ly/2P14xBf, accessed September 2019.

European Commission (2007), Promoting young people's full participation in education, employment and society, COM(2007)498 final.

European Commission (2016), Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies, COM(2016)805 final.

European Union (2016), Cultural awareness and expression handbook, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg.

European Commission (2018), Study on macroregional strategies and their links with cohesion policy, Final report, Publication Office of the European Union, Luxembourg.

European Parliament (2011), Report on Europe, the world's No 1 tourist destination – A new political framework for tourism in Europe, 2010/2206(INI), available at http://bit.ly/2VsAvcd, accessed September 2019.

European Parliament, European Parliament resolution of 5 July 2017 on Towards an EU strategy for international cultural relations (2016/2240 (INI)).

Evans G. L. (2005), "Measure for measure: evaluating the evidence of culture's contribution to regeneration". Urban Studies, 42(5/6), 959-984.

Führer J. (993), Aostatal: 50 ausgewählte Bergwanderungen [...].München : Bergverl.

1993.Greffe, X. (2004), "Is heritage an asset or a liability?". Journal of Cultural Heritage, Vol. 5(3), 301-309.

Gauchon, C., "De-Touristified" Territories of the French Mountains: Which Teachings? . Paper presented at the international conference 'Tourism, patrimonies, identities, territories' . April 3-5. University of Perpignan

Graham, BJ , Ashworth, GJ and Tunbridge, JE. (2000), A Geography of Heritage , London : Arnold .

Gravari-Barbas, M., Violier, P. (1999), " Heritage policies and cultural tourism in Bourges: global trends and local actors ". In The local space and the actors of tourism , Violier, P. (ed.), Rennes : Rennes University Press, pp. 153 - 165.

Griffin K., Morpeth N.D., Raj R. (2013), Cultural Tourism, Oxfordshire, CABI.

Gumuchian, H. (1983), Snow in the northern French Alps, Grenoble: Editions des Cahiers de l'Alpe

International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) (1999), International Cultural Tourism Charter. Managing tourism at places of heritage significance, Mexico.

ICOMOS (2004), Los itinerarios culturales. Una nueva categoría conceptual del patrimonio para la comprensión y la paz, in Encuentro scientífico internacional sobre itinerarios culturales. Identificación, promoción e inventario de los itinerarios culturales. Organizado por el Comité espanol de Icomos en colaboración con el comité scientífico internacional de itinerarios culturales (CIIC), Ferrol (Espana) 1-3 de ocutbre 2004, 21-26.

ICOMOS (2004), The World Heritage List: Filling the Gaps – an Action Plan for the Future. An Analysis by ICOMOS, Paris.

Leitz A., Fleury T. (2005), Programme Espace Alpin INTERREG IIIB. Les projets 2000-2006. Rosenheim: JTS Espace alpin.

Loretz P. (2006), Die «Schublade» der Walservereinigung Graubünden. Wir Walser, n° 2, p. 23.

Loretz P., Simonett J. (1991), Die dreimalige Entdeckung der Walser. In Antonietti Th., Morand M.-C., Valais d'émigration, Auswanderungsland Wallis. Sion: Editions des Musées cantonaux du Valais, pp.255-261.

Jansen-Verbeke M., Priestley G.K., Russo A.P. (2008), Cultural resources for tourism: patterns, processes and policies, Pennsylvania, Nova Science Publishers.

Jelincic, D. A. (2002), "Culture: a driving force for urban tourism – Application of experiences to countries in transition. Proceedings of the 1st international Seminar on Culture: A Driving Force for Urban Tourism – Application of Experiences to Countries in Transition, Dubrovnik, 18-19 May 2001", Culturelink/Institute for International Relations, Zagreb.Jianbo W. (2013), Three key concepts to understand Cultural Routes, available at www.whitr-ap.org/index.php?classid=1488&newsid=2312&t=show, accessed September 2019.

Kotler P., Kartajaya H. and Setiawan I. (2010), 3.0 – From products to customers to the human spirit, John Wiley & Sons.

Kotler P., Kartajaya H. and Setiawan I. (2017), 4.0: Moving from traditional to digital, John Wiley & Sons.

Macchiavelli A. (2006) (ed.), Il turismo montano tra continuità e cambiamento, Franco Angeli, Milano.

Majdoub W. (2010), Analyzing cultural routes from a multidimensional perspective. Almatourism No. 2, pp. 29-37.

McKercher, B. and Cros, H. (du) (2002), Cultural tourism: the partnership between tourism and cultural heritage management, Binghampton.

Madden M., Shipley R. (2012), An analysis of the literature at the nexus of heritage, tourism, and local economic development. Journal of Heritage Tourism 7:2, pp. 103-112.

Mirici Cappa M. (1997), Ambiente e sistema edilizio negli insediamenti Walser di Alagna Valsesia, Macugnaga e Formazza, Quaderno numero 55.

Mortarotti R. 1979, I Walser nella Val d'Ossola: Le colonie tedesco-vallesane di Macugnaga, Formazza, Agaro, Salecchio, Ornavasso e Migiandone. Domodossola: Libreria Giovannacci.

Minichbauer, R. and Mitterdorfer, E. (2000), European Cultural Networks and Networking in Central and Eastern Europe. European institute for Progressive Cultural Policies / eiPCP, IG Kultur Österreich in cooperation with kult-ex, Vienna.

Moller, A. (2011), CrossCulTour Strategy, Munich.

Nuryanti W. (1996), Heritage and postmodern tourism, Annals of Tourism Research, 23, 2, pp. 249-260.Nagy K. (2018), Master lecturer on tourism, University of Miskolc, Hungary. Interview on the occasion of the first Routes4U-meeting for the EUSDR, 6 November 2018, Bucharest.

OECD (2014), Tourism and the creative economy, OECD Studies on Tourism, OECD Publishing, Paris. World Tourism Organization (2018), "European Union tourism trends", available at https://www.e-unwto. org/doi/pdf/10.18111/9789284419470, accessed September 2019.

OECD (2018), Tourism trends and policies, figures for selected OECD countries, 2016.

Oppio A., Bottero M., Ferretti V. (2014), Multicriteria Spatial Analysis for Competitive Cultural Heritage in Fringe Areas: The Case of Valle d'Aosta Vastles. Advanced Engineering Forum 11, pp. 579-584.

CrossrefPattanaro G.G., Pistocchi F. (2016), Linking Destinations Through Sustainable Cultural Routes. http://dx.doi.org/10.4468/2016.1.08pattanaro.pistocchi

Patel K. (2013), "Introduction", in Routledge (eds), The cultural politics of Europe: European capitals of culture and European Union since the 1980s, New York, pp. 1-16.

Petite M. (2009), A new perspective on the Walser community. Revue de Géographie Alpine | Journal of Alpine Research [En ligne], 97-2 | 2009, mis en ligne le 23 juillet 2009. URL : http://journals.openedition.org/rga/912; DOI : 10.4000/rga.912

Polletta F., Jaspers J. M. (2001), "Collective Identity and Social Movements". Annual Review of Sociology, 27, pp. 283-305. DOI: 10.1146/annurev.soc.27.1.283

Piskóti I. (2016), "Destination branding", in Bauer-Kolos (eds.), Brand management, Academic Publication, Budapest (in Hungarian).

Richards G. (ed.) (1996), Cultural Tourism in Europe, Wallingford. Re-issued by ATLAS 2005.

Richards G. (2016), "Utilization of cultural content in tourism", Extract from the report UNWTO Alianza entre turismo y cultura en el Perú, UNWTO, Madrid.

Richards G. (2005), The cultural impact of travel on young people, WYSE Travel Confederation, Amsterdam.

Richards G. (2011), Cultural tourism trends in Europe: a context for the development of Cultural Routes, in Khovanova-Rubicondo K. (ed.) (2011), Impact of European Cultural Routes on SMEs' innovation and competitiveness. Strasbourg: Council of Europe Publishing (provisional).

Richards, G. Palmer, R. (2010), Eventful cities: cultural management and urban Revitalisation, Oxford.

Richards G. (2018), "Cultural tourism: a review of recent research and trends". Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Management, Volume 36, pp. 12-21, available at www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1447677018300755 and www.researchgate.net/publication/326247209_Cultural_Tourism_A_review_of_recent_research_and_trends, accessed September 2019.

Richards G., Wilson J. (2008), Changing Experiences The development of creative tourism, in Richards G., Wilson J. (eds) Changing Experiences The development of creative tourism. Part 4 Proceedings of the Atlas International Conference, Barcelona, 2005, pp. 7-24.

Richards, G., Fernandes, C. (2007), "Religious tourism in northern Portugal", in Richards, G. (ed.), Cultural tourism: global and local perspectives, Binghampton, 215-238.

Richards, G., Wilson, J. (2007), Tourism, creativity and development, London.

Richards G., Wilson J. (2006), Developing creativity in tourist experiences: a solution to the serial reproduction of culture?, Tourism Management, 27, pp. 1408-1413; 1209-1223.

Richards G., Raymond C. (2000), Creative tourism, ATLAS news, 23, pp. 16–20.

Richards G., Smith M. (2013), Routledge Handbook of Cultural Tourism, Oxon, Routledge.

Rizzi E. (1993), Storia dei Walser. Anzola d'Ossola: Fondazione E. Monti.

Rizzi E. 1998 (ed.), Lingua e comunicazione simbolica nella cultura Walser, Fondazione Enrico Monti, Anzola d'Ossola.

Roncaccioli A. 1996 (ed.), L'azienda museo: problemi economici, gestionali e organizzativi, CEDAM, Padova.

Routes4U Project Council of Europe (2019), Roadmap for the Danube Region - Strengthening regional development through the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. Cultural Routes 3, Council of Europe.

Schmid V. (2006), "Ein Walserprojekt". Wir Walser, 2, pp. 5-7.

Sibilla P. (1980), Una comunità Walser delle Alpi, Olschki, Firenze.

Snow D. (2001), Collective Identity and Expressive Forms, Center for the Study of Democracy.

Suchet A., Raspaud M. (2010), "A case of local rejection of a heritage tourism policy: tourism and dynamics of change in Abondance, French Alps". International Journal of Heritage Studies, 16:6, pp. 449-463, DOI: 10.1080/13527258.2010.505038

Suchet A. (2016) "Acteurs et dynamiques de projet dans l'histoire d'une impossible reconversion de territoire. Abondance, petite station de sports d'hiver dans les Alpes du Nord". Cahiers de géographie du Québec 60:171, pp. 493-514.

Timothy D.J., Boyd S.W. (2003), Heritage Tourism (Themes in Tourism). Harlow, [in italian

Timothy D.J., Boyd S.W. (2007), Heritage e turismo, Milano, R. Bonadei (ed.)].

United Nations Environment Programme, World Tourism Organization (2005), Making tourism more sustainable – A guide for policy makers.

United Nations General Assembly (2016), Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 30 September 2016.

UNESCO (2003), Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, Paris.

UNESCO (2011), The social benefits of heritage, Vol. LXII, No. 1-2, pp. 249-50.

UNESCO (2013), Background note. Culture: a driver and an enabler of social cohesion.

UNESCO/ICCROM/ICOMOS/IUCN (2013), World heritage resource manual. Managing cultural world heritage, UNESCO, Paris.

UNESCO (2017), Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, WHC.17/01.

Waibel M. (2003), Unterwegs zu den Walsern in der Schweiz, in Italien, Frankreich, Liechtenstein, Vorarlberg und dem Tirol. Frauenfeld, Stuttgart, Verlag Huber, Wien.

World Economic Forum WEF (2017), Travel and tourism competitiveness report, available at http://reports.weforum.org/travel-and-tourism-competitiveness-report-2017/europe-and-eurasia-results/, accessed September 2019.

World Tourism Organization (2015), Global report on cultural routes and itineraries, UNWTO, Madrid.

World Tourism Organization (2015), Affiliate Members Global Reports: Volume twelve – Cultural Routes and Itineraries, UNWTO, Madrid.

World Tourism Organization/European Travel Commission (2017), Handbook on Marketing Transnation Tourism Themes and Routes, Madrid.

World Tourism Organization/UNESCO (2017), Second World Conference on Tourism and Culture: Fostering Sustainable Development. Muscat Declaration on Tourism and Culture: Fostering Sustainable Development, 12 December 2017, available at http://cf.cdn.unwto.org/sites/all/files/pdf/muscat_declaration_0.pdf, accessed September 2019.

World Tourism Organization (2018), Tourism and culture synergies, UNWTO, Madrid.

World Tourism Organization (2018), European Union tourism trends, available at www.e-unwto.org/doi/ pdf/10.18111/9789284419470, accessed September 2019.

World Travel & Tourism Council WTTC (2018), The economic impact of travel & tourism

8th Advisory Forum, Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, available at www.culturalroutes2018.goerlitz.de/en/, accessed September 2019.

VII Training Academy for Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, 12-15 June 2018, available at http://bit.ly/2U0WuWd , accessed September 2019.

Zinsli P. (2002), Walser Volkstum in der Schweiz, in Vorarlberg, Liechtenstein und Italien. Frauenfeld: Verlag Huber, 1968. 7. Aufl. Chur : Verlag Bündner Monatsblatt.

Zurrer P. (1993), Différence de bilinguisme dans les communautés Walser de la Vallée d'Aoste. In Sanguin André-Louis. Les minorités ethniques en Europe. Paris: L'Harmattan, pp.141-148.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CRM Consumer relation management

DG REGIO Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

DMO Destination management organisation

EICR European Institute of Cultural Routes

EPA Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes, Council of Europe

EUROCLIO European Association of History Educators

EUSAIR European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region

EUSALP European Union Strategy for the Alpine Region

EUSBSR European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region EUSDR: European Union Strategy for the Danube Region

ICOM International Council of Museums

ICOMOS International Council on Monuments and Sites

ICT Information and communication technology

NCP National Contact Point

OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

SME Small and medium-sized enterprise

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNWTO United Nations World Tourism Organization USP Unique Selling Proposition