

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

Expert report

“Via Romea Germanica”

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

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1. Executive Summary

The candidate route “Via Romea Germanica” is presented as a European Pilgrimage Route and proposes to complement those pilgrimage routes existing and recognised in other parts of Europe.

The theme as well as the itinerary of the candidate route are closely linked to the historical character of the Abbot of Stade who documented his pilgrimage from Stade (Germany) to Rome in the so-called “Annales Stadenses”, dating back to the 13th century.

The theme can be considered representative of European values in that it aims to contribute to cherishing the European legacy of Christianity, the development of its Catholic and Lutheran beliefs, and the spiritual dimensions of pilgrimage since the Middle Ages. The candidate route also aims to contribute to intercultural and inter-religious dialogue along the North-South axis of Europe.

The theme is common to three countries of Europe – Germany, Austria and Italy – while also relating to neighbouring countries, such as the Nordic from where pilgrimage routes connected through German territories.

The theme of Via Romea Germanica is well eligible according to the Rules for the award the Council of Europe certification. Given the existing awards of other pilgrimage routes as Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, it may be considered suggesting a joint candidature of all Ways to Rome, Vie Romee, to allow for a more consistent presentation of the common values and joint activities.

The development of the network of the Via Romea Germanica is to be commended, given that all activities have been developed based on volunteer work and not-for-profit associations throughout the past 10 years. The Via Romea Germanica candidate route appears to be significantly more advanced in the practical implementation than in theoretical substantiation.

The European Association of the Via Romea Germanica, established in November 2018, is a solid base for developing activities along the candidate route. It appears crucial to develop a common conceptual framework and strategic planning for the implementation of the candidate route activities and its long-term financing. To benefit from the existing potential, strengthening the strategic focus and joint action would be required to live up to the recognition as Cultural Route of the Council of Europe.

Regarding the awarding of the recognition as Cultural Route of the Council of Europe, it is suggested to consider (1) how to handle the proliferation / repetition of themes – here pilgrimage routes –; and to requesting the network (2) to develop solid strategic and operational planning for the next steps of its activities and funding, (3) to continue its efforts to consolidate its network by including Austrian partners along the route, and (4) to enhance its academic research on the theme.

2. Introduction

The candidate route “Via Romea Germanica” connects the city of Stade in northern Germany with the eternal city of Rome in Italy. Its course is based on the written testimony of a pilgrimage undertaken and documented by the Abbott of Stade in the 13th century. The document known as “Annales Stadenses” is archived in the Herzog August Library of Wolfenbüttel and was discovered in the early 2000s by the Italian professor Giovanni Caselli. Since the early 2010s, a group of experts in Germany and Italy built up a body of knowledge based on the document and formed a network

The candidate route proposes to complement those pilgrimage routes existing in other parts of Europe and thereby contribute to cherishing the European legacy of Christianity, the development of its Catholic and Lutheran beliefs, and the spiritual dimensions of pilgrimage over the centuries.

The candidature is based on the initiative and cooperation of 3 national associations in Germany, Austria, and Italy: the German Association Abt Albert von Stade, the Austrian Jerusalem Way Association, and the Italian Association Via Romea Germanica. In November 2018, these 3 national associations created the European Association Via Romea Germanica (EAVRG) with a view to further strengthening cooperation among the representatives of the 3 countries and taking the candidature as a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe to a higher level. This European Association includes –among others– a Technical-Scientific Committee and its headquarter in Bolzano/Bozen, Italy – in a region that appears adequate to host the presented European trans-Alpine initiative thanks to its multilingual character.

The person responsible for the candidature and for the candidate route network is the president of the above-mentioned European Association Via Romea Germanica, Mr Flavio Foietta.

The candidate route initiative involves a significant number of municipalities, in particular along the German and Italian stretches of the route. Agreements have been developed to engage with the local administrations as well as their tourist offices for information and promotion purposes. In Austria, a similar level of cooperation remains to be developed.

Promotion of the candidate route is primarily ensured through a joint logo “Via Romea”. A joint webpage, guidebooks of the route in German and Italian, as well as short videos and leaflets in several languages complement the promotional activities. Representatives of the national associations – now also integrating the European Association – participated in conferences and lecture series to spread the word about the candidate route initiative and build up relations to other existing cultural routes.

3. Main Body Evaluation

3.1 Cultural Route Theme

The candidate route “Via Romea Germanica” is presented as a European Pilgrimage Route and proposes to complement those pilgrimage routes existing and recognised in other parts of Europe.

The theme as well as the course of the candidate route are closely linked to the historical character of the Abbot of Stade who documented his pilgrimage from Stade (Germany) to Rome in the now-known “Annales Stadenses”, dating back to the 13th century.

The theme can be considered representative of European values in that it aims to contribute to cherishing the European legacy of Christianity, the development of its Catholic and Lutheran beliefs, and the spiritual dimensions of pilgrimage since the Middle Ages. The candidate route also aims to contribute to intercultural and inter-religious dialogue along the North-South axis of Europe.

The theme is common to three countries of Europe – Germany, Austria and Italy – while also relating to neighbouring, in particular Nordic, countries from where pilgrimage routes connected through German territories.

The candidature documents and annexed documents were developed by a group of experts in the countries concerned. Several of the experts are members of the recently created Scientific-Technical Committee of the EAVRG and are based at universities in Italy and Germany. The candidature is sustained by a number of publications for the larger public; it is not substantiated through academic literature. It is therefore not possible to demonstrate activities illustrating academic consensus due to a lack of peer-reviewed publications.

As mentioned above, the theme of the candidate route is closely linked to the historical character of the Abbot of Stade and the itinerary of his pilgrimage from Stade (Germany) to Rome (and back). While this specific historical reference does not lend itself to illustrating European memory, history and heritage beyond the act of pilgrimage in the Middle Ages, the landscapes, villages and cities along the candidate route allow for a broad interpretation of the diversity of former and present-day Europe; while such interpretation would remain rather disconnected from the main theme of the route, it allows to illustrate the open-minded and secular spirit of the candidature.

The theme of the “Via Romea Germanica” can serve as a backdrop to a number of cultural and educational exchanges for young people, provided that they highlight intercultural and inter-religious learning and sensitization to nature, landscapes and geographies. This has so far been demonstrated through the activities carried out by the candidate network. If continuously implemented in that sense, the theme of the candidate route would be in line with the Council of Europe's ideas and concerns.

With its main character as a pilgrimage route, the Via Romea Germanica theme has the potential to develop nature-based activities and slow tourism for all age groups. Exemplary and innovative projects in the field of cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development exist in some municipalities along the route and could be connected and jointly promoted through the route. Exemplary and innovative projects in the field of cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development for the route itself would still need to be defined in a future strategic planning document. To do so, the European Association of the candidate network can benefit from its close cooperation and interlinkages with tourist offices along the route, in

particular in the Italian part. Along the Austrian part of the route, more engagement would be required to communicate and tap into the potential of the candidate route as a truly sustainable form of tourism.

Likewise, being mainly a pilgrimage route, the Via Romea Germanica theme itself and the diversity of places along the route allow for the development of classical touristic products, starting from smaller-size accommodation arrangements in rural areas to packaged tours for customer groups with special needs. The candidate route has documented a number of successful arrangements with tourist agencies and operators in municipalities along the route in the three countries.

3.2 Fields of Action

3.2.1 Co-operation in research and development

The course of the candidate route Via Romea Germanica is based on the written testimony of a pilgrimage from Stade (Germany) to Rome undertaken and documented by the Abbott of Stade, dating back to the 13th century. According to the candidature, the document known as “Annales Stadenses” was identified in the early 2000s while conducting research on another Via Romea. The reference document appears to be a valuable account of its time with a first secured mention of a road passage of the Gotthard Pass in the Alps; it is archived in the Herzog August Library of Wolfenbüttel (Germany).

The applicants of the candidate route clearly demonstrate that the “Annales Stadenses” have prompted them to identify interested counterparts in Germany, Austria and Italy, municipalities along the route and – as a network – pursue the idea of promoting the official establishment of a cultural route linking the three countries. Likewise, the applicants demonstrate efforts to bring together dispersed knowledge and advance exchanges around the theme of the northern ways to Rome.

The candidate route Via Romea Germanica is interpreted and presented as representative of the European values linking areas of Catholic and Lutheran beliefs. With regard to the original document of the 13th century that serves as justification for the pilgrimage route, the reference to the later schism of beliefs within Christian religion appears yet anachronical.

Documented research about the Via Romea Germanica has so far focused on the reference document itself, Annales Stadenses, and on the identification of the itinerary in the territory. Dissemination of the findings has been undertaken through mainstream publications, not peer-reviewed articles. It would therefore be important to also include comparative studies to be able to demonstrate the value and complementarity of the itinerary of the Via Romea Germanica in relation to possible other ways to Rome from the Northern German territories.

While many values and forms of interreligious and intercultural dialogue within the diversity of Europe can be associated to the candidate route, another key value lies in the enthusiasm and commitment of the associations that carry the candidature.

The theme of Vie Romee or Ways to Rome – well beyond the focus on the Germanica stretch – not only lends itself to further research but also requires in-depth interdisciplinary analysis on both a theoretical and a practical level. The Via Romea Germanica candidate route appears to be significantly more advanced in the practical implementation than in theoretical substantiation.

3.2.2 Enhancement of the memory, history and European heritage

The course of the candidate route includes a diversity of tangible and intangible heritage elements from northern Germany to the Italian peninsula. Only few of those elements date back to the Middle Ages when the reference document of “Annales Stadenses” was written. However, the diversity of landscapes and heritage sites along the route allow for ample interpretation and explanation of the historical developments, similarities as well as differences and complementarities representative of Europe’s history.

The applicants exemplify that other themes covered by existing Cultural Routes – such as Reformation, Iron Curtain, Totalitarianism – can also be illustrated along the Via Romea Germanica.

The applicants clearly state their commitment to take into account the charters, conventions, recommendations and work of the Council of Europe, UNESCO and ICOMOS relating to heritage restoration, protection and enhancement, landscape and spatial planning, while also stating that promotional activities would only be done upon recognition as Cultural Route by the Council of Europe.

The candidate route runs through large stretches of rural areas, which benefit from valorization through the route. Some of these areas may also benefit from further impulses for economic restructuring.

In northern Italy, the candidate route passes through the area of ethnic minorities, the physical and intangible heritage of which it intends to promote and enhance.

Activities of the three national associations as well as its associated academic partners include significant work to raise awareness among decision makers and the general public of the Via Romea Germanica as an example of a complex type of heritage. Press releases illustrate that promotion and communication at local and regional levels, in particular in Germany and Italy, have been well received.

The commitment and mindset communicated throughout the application dossier show that the applicants understand and embrace the necessity to protect, interpret and communicate the heritage of the Via Romea Germanica as a means for sustainable development and promotion of the values of a joint Europe.

3.2.3 Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans

The candidature illustrates that the network of three national associations has since its establishment been involved in numerous activities for and with young people of different age groups.

Exemplarily, a school exchange of Ochsenfurt (Germany) and Bibbiena (Italy) has been set up to provide young people with contacts and experiences to learn about different places and their common responsibility of protecting them.

The theme of the candidate route has also been covered by some university study projects, in particular in medieval and tourism studies.

While opportunities for youth involvement appear to be numerous and diverse, it seems important for the candidate route to elaborate a solid interpretation and communication

strategy that also defines the main messages and adequate educational tools relevant to the theme of the route. So far, the candidate route does not propose any particular pilot scheme but investigates and considers adapting successful schemes of other cultural routes.

The applicants inform about their involvement in the 2020 congress “Pilgrims open borders” with potential to involve young people from Europe and around the world. This is a valuable opportunity being seized but not an activity emanating from the route network itself.

With the European Association established, there is much potential for the candidate route to develop and disseminate more focused activities with educational institutions.

3.2.4 Contemporary cultural and artistic practice

The candidate route demonstrates to have seized multiple occasions of cultural and artistic events to present itself and highlight contemporary views on the issue of pilgrimage. In particular, the municipalities along the candidate route have included the Via Romea Germanica into their cultural programming. For the first time, a Via Romea Germanica festival will be organised in 2020 in the municipality of Grigno, Italy.

As part of a future solid strategy, the candidate route would clearly benefit from events that allow debate and exchange, in a multidisciplinary and intercultural perspective, on the issues of pilgrimage, beliefs as well as sustainable ways of living along the route.

So far, the candidate route itself does not demonstrate any innovative practices in terms of creativity in the fields of visual arts, performing arts, creative crafts, architecture, music, literature or any other form of cultural expression. However, several festivals and initiatives along the route could mutually benefit each other. By means of its pilgrimage tours, the candidate route is developing ways to address networks and activities which break down the barriers between professionals and non-professionals.

3.2.5 Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development

The candidate route has deployed substantial work on developing cultural tourism opportunities along the route, involving local decision-makers as well as small-scale local businesses in its promotion.

The candidate route has already undertaken steps to engage with public and private tourism organisations and holds potential to develop tourist products and tools targeting diverse publics.

Press releases from local and regional print and broadcast media document that the network has been active and successful in raising awareness of their route project.

Naturally, the candidate route allows for dialogue between the northern and southern Europe and their urban and rural areas. It lends itself to promote local, regional and European identities; it is less prone to instigate dialogue between majority and minority, native and immigrant cultures. Here again, the network of the new European Association would benefit from a consented communication and interpretation strategy.

The Austrian partner association Jerusalem Way as well as the network's involvement in "Pilgrims crossing borders" congress in 2020 indicate the potential to open up cooperation with the Eastern Mediterranean countries, in particular Israel and Palestine.

3.3 Cultural Route Network

The candidature has evolved from an initiative and cooperation of 3 national associations in Germany, Austria, and Italy: the German Association Abt Albert von Stade, the Austrian Jerusalem Way Association, and the Italian Association Via Romea Germanica.

On 22 November 2018, the European Association Via Romea Germanica (EAVRG) was founded with a view to further strengthening multidisciplinary cooperation among the 3 countries and taking the candidature as a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe to the next level.

This European Association has its headquarter in Bolzano/Bozen, Italy, hosted by the municipal tourist board. Its president is Mr Flavio Foietta, Italy, who is also treasurer of the Italian Association Via Romea Germanica, based in Santa Sofia (Italy). The European Association's vice-president is Mr Thomas Dahms, Germany, who is also president of the German Association Romweg – Abt Albert von Stade.

The candidate route initiative involves a significant number of municipalities, in particular along the German and Italian stretches of the route. Agreements have been developed to engage with the local administrations as well as their tourist offices for information and promotion purposes. Efforts are being undertaken to achieve a similar level of engagement in Austria. The statutes of the European Association now allow for municipalities to join the Association upon decision of their respective municipal council.

With the focus of the route initiative as a pilgrimage route and source of intercultural and interreligious dialogue, the candidature would need to provide a solid conceptual framework, also as a baseline for interpretation and communication strategy.

The candidate route network features cooperation initiatives as a European Association and among its national members, as well as with other pilgrimage routes in Europe, in particular the Via Francigena and the St Olav's Way. In doing so, the network also reaches out to local partners in other States Parties to the European Cultural Convention.

The network's projects are reported to be financed on a case-by-case basis, with funding from donors to the associations, partner municipalities – such as Bolzano/Bozen – and partly benefitting from European project funding. In addition to the above-mentioned, individual funding sources, it appears important to secure basic annual funding for the continuous functioning of the Association.

It is important to note that all members are active on a voluntary basis, meaning that the vitality of the network has depended and is depending on the commitment of its key members. It appears crucial to stabilize core funding for the EAVRG to allow implementation of the basic administrative, promotional and maintenance tasks.

With the creation of the European Association Via Romea Germanica the network has obtained a solid legal status, operating democratically and able to receive funding and donations in a transparent manner.

The membership and associated municipalities along the route vary from one country to the other. While a broad range of partners and associated municipalities are engaged in Italy and Germany, the involvement in Austria remains to be enhanced. So far, 4 municipalities have been engaged in Austria as well as 2 associations in addition to the founding Jerusalem Way Association. Efforts would need to be maintained to consolidate the entire stretch of the route.

3.3.1 Network extension in the three years to come

Extension of the Via Romea Germanica network mainly addresses the municipalities along the route itself with their respective tourist boards, small-scale businesses and educational institutions.

In a first step, extensions will concern the route itself by including municipalities and associations in Austria so as to strengthen the tripartite European network. Efforts and negotiations with Austrian partners are currently underway so that such extension should be achieved and demonstrate its benefits within a few months from now.

For quality control of the label of the route it appears critical how the network and board of the European Association will decide about requests for involvement or membership of places and associations that are not directly linked to the defined route of Albert of Stade. Here again, a mid-term strategy for the route would be useful to develop.

Network extension may further include academia and research centres for theoretical consolidation and practical investigation of interpretation and tourism opportunities.

Ultimately, options of joining the networks of all major Ways to Rome to form one large network of Vie Romee could be considered, depending on continued consultations with the European Associations that manage the Via Francigena Cultural Route of the Council of Europe network as well as the Via Romea Strata.

3.4 Communication tools

The candidate route disposes of diverse communication tools but lacks a consolidated communication strategy to which all stakeholders of the route could easily adhere.

Promotion of the candidate route is first and foremost ensured through the joint logo "Via Romea".

The joint webpage www.viaromeagermanica.eu (also.com), Facebook and Instagram accounts as well as guidebooks, short videos, and leaflets in several languages complement the array of promotional products.

Contacts with print and broadcast media allow for local and regional coverage of the route project and its network activities.

Lecture series and participation in conferences serve as occasional communication tools to inform about the candidate route initiative.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1 Conclusions regarding the list of eligibility criteria for themes

1. The Via Romea Germanica theme is representative of European values and common to at least three countries of Europe, here Germany, Austria and Italy. It should however be noted that the values represented by the candidate route are already well represented through other Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, in particular in the Route of Santiago de Compostela, the Via Francigena, and the St Olav's Way.

2. The Via Romea Germanica theme is promoted through large public guide books but appears in little academic research so that academic consensus cannot be demonstrated due to a lack of peer-reviewed publications.

3. The Via Romea Germanica theme is closely linked to the specific historical character of the Abbot of Stade which does not lend itself to illustrating European memory, history and heritage beyond the act of pilgrimage in the Middle Ages. It may therefore need to demonstrate additional value to the already existing Cultural Routes related to pilgrimage (see above).

4. The Via Romea Germanica theme allows to easily link and extend to other regions of Europe any cultural and educational exchanges for young people linked to the issue of pilgrimage. So far, few pilot projects are undertaken and would benefit from replication based on a consistent plan of activities to be developed by the European Association.

5. The Via Romea Germanica theme allows to extend to other regions of Europe any initiatives and exemplary projects related to cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development. So far, the candidate route has not developed any particular initiative but has inspired itself by successful schemes from other cultural routes.

6. The Via Romea Germanica theme allows to extend to other regions of Europe any development of tourist products in partnership with tourist agencies and operators.

Recommendation(s) regarding the eligibility of themes:

The theme of Via Romea Germanica is well eligible according to the Rules for the award the Council of Europe certification. Given the previous recognition of other pilgrimage routes as Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, it may be considered investigating a joint candidature of all Ways to Rome, Vie Romee, to allow for a more consistent presentation of the common values and joint activities.

4.2 Conclusions regarding the list of priority fields of action

Co-operation in research and development:

The candidate route appears to require further academic research in order to consolidate consensus on the findings about the Via Romea Germanica.

Enhancement of the memory, history and European heritage:

The candidate route complements existing memory and history-related narratives of pilgrimage in Europe and would require consolidation with other pilgrimage routes to Rome in order to establish a complementary narrative.

Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans:

The candidature allows for cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans in its respective regions. Next to the existing exchanges, such activities would complement existing pilgrimage projects and should ideally join existing routes. So far, few pilot projects are undertaken and would benefit from replication based on a consistent plan of activities to be developed by the European Association.

Contemporary cultural and artistic practice:

Pilgrimage could be considered a contemporary cultural practice in itself. The candidature has mainly seized opportunities along its route and would benefit from more strategic and conceptual planning to support future development of local practice.

Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development:

The candidate route has high potential for cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development, which it has already started to mobilise successfully, in particular in rural areas of the route.

Recommendations regarding the list of priority fields of action:

It appears crucial for the European Association to develop a common conceptual framework for route interpretation and strategic planning for the implementation of the candidate route activities. This would help to enhance the existing potential and live up to a recognition as Cultural Route of the Council of Europe.

4.3 Conclusions regarding the list of criteria for networks

With the creation of the European Association Via Romea Germanica the network has gained a solid legal status, operating democratically and able to receive funding and donations in a transparent manner.

Being a young European Association, the working methods, conceptual framework and mid-term strategy would yet require further development and consolidation. Particular focus should be given on ensuring consistent funding to allow the continuity of all basic tasks of the European Association.

The membership along the Austrian part of route would need to be extended and consolidated.

Recommendation(s) regarding the list of criteria for networks:

The European Association would benefit from consolidating its Austrian partners and from better defining the conceptual framework of its activities, from setting up its strategic planning, including communication plan, and from securing continuous funding for the next years.

Summary of conclusions:

CRITERIA		Implementation
I. Cultural route theme		Eligible but consider elaborating conceptual framework in relation to the other Vie Romee, including possibility of presenting a joint candidature with other Vie Romee
II. Priority fields of action	Cooperation in research and development	Candidature requires undertaking further academic research and consolidate consensus on the findings about the Via Romea Germanica.
	Enhancement of memory, history and European heritage	Candidature complements existing memory and history related to pilgrimage in Europe and would require consolidation with other pilgrimage routes to Rome for consistent narrative.
	Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans	Candidature allows for cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans in its respective regions: While only few such exchanges exist so far, the route network has potential to complement existing pilgrimage exchanges and to easily link in with other existing activities.
	Contemporary cultural and artistic practice	Candidature seizes opportunities along its route and shows potential for cooperating with contemporary cultural and artistic practice. The current EAVRG network will however require strategic and action plan to support focussed development of such local cooperation.
	Cultural Tourism and Sustainable Cultural development	Candidature provides high potential for slow and small-scale cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development, in particular in rural areas of the route. Cooperation initiatives in Italian and German municipalities along the route would need to be complemented along the Austrian stretches of the route.
III. Cultural Route Network		European Association created a year ago ensures common baseline for cooperation, funding and exchange. Next step of the European Association should be to develop conceptual framework, common narrative and strategic planning for its activities and basic funding.
Communication Tools		Most of the commonly used communication tools are being implemented. However, these are administered on a voluntary basis and lacking a strategic communication plan.

5. List of references

List of documents provided by the Cultural Route and analysed by the expert.

Dossier: VIA ROMEA GERMANICA application 2018

1_COMPULSORY DOCUMENTS

DOC_1_DOSSIER_CERTIFICATION_EN_2018_VIA_ROMEA2.doc
DOC_2_SELF_ASSESSMENT_GRID_CERTIFICATION_VIA_ROMEA.xls
DOC_3_Declaration_of_honour_VIAROMEA_Certification.pdf
Letter_Application.doc

2_ANNEXES

1_STATUTES

Agreement_1_cooperation.pdf
Agreement_2_Addendum_cooperation
Via_Romea_Statutes_english_IF1.doc
Via_Romea_Statutes_german_resolution_MV_2018_06_01

2_MEMBERS

Members_network.doc

3_GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORTS

2015-07-27-direttivoVRG-verbale.pdf
2016_08_19_Mitgliederversammlung_VRG_Donauwörth_Protokoll_8.pdf
2016-01-23-Direttivo-Verbale.pdf
2016-01-30-Assamblea-verbale.pdf
2016-02-13-Direttivo-Verbale.pdf
2016-12-04-verbale-assamblea-2016-11-26.pdf
2017_06_23_Mitgliederversammlung_VR_Wernigerode_Protokoll_9.pdf
2017-04-08-verbale-assamblea.pdf
2017-12-08-verbale-assamblea.pdf
2018_06_01_Mitgliederversammlung_VR_Osterwieck_Protokoll_10.pdf
2018-04-28-assamblea-verbale-finale.pdf

4_FINANCIAL INFORMATION

2016-01-07-BILANCIO-2015-consuntivo.pdf
2017-04-08-BILANCIO-2016-andamento-cassa.pdf
2017-04-08-BILANCIO-2016-categorie.pdf
2018-04-05-BILANCIO-2017-consuntivo.pdf
Budget informations.xls
Via_Romea_expenditure_german_association_english.xls

5_ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME

3-years-programme_VR.xls

6_OTHERS

A_1.doc
A_2_Frontpage.doc
A_3_Frontpage.doc
A_4.doc
A_5.doc
A_6.doc
A_7_Frontpage.doc
A_8.doc
A_9.doc
A_10.doc
A_11.doc

A_12.doc
A_13.doc
A_14.doc
A_15.doc
A_16.doc
A_17.doc
A_18.doc
A_19.doc
A_20.doc
A_21.doc
A-22.doc

4_ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS_VRG_20190524

1-Part 3.4 general text integrations.pdf
2-Contemporary art and culture.pdf
3-Historical events-Via Romea.pdf
4-working-group.pdf
2019-05-24-integration-letter.pdf

Dossier: CERTIFICATION_2019-2020

- 1) 2019-09-12-coe-dominioni-dossier-invio-email
- 2) via romea DECLARATION OF HONOUR
- 3) 2019-09-12-DOC_1_DOSSIER_CERTIFICATION_EN_2019-2020
- 4) Annex1_General Information Appendix A1
- 5) Annex1_General Information Appendix A2_Frontpage
- 6) Annex1_General Information Appendix A3_Frontpage
- 7) Annex2_Responsible network_Appendix A4_A5_A6
- 8) 2019-soci-VRG2
- 9) Vereinsmitglieder_Via_Romea_NUR_Kommunen_Institutionen_Stand_19_09_02
- 10)Lista esperti.RG
- 11)Comitato Scientifico
- 12)Annex3_Conformity with eligibility criteria_new text
- 13)Annex3_Conformity with elig criteria_Appendix A7_Frontpage
- 14)Annex4_Culture and education_appendix from 8 to 13
- 15)Annex4_Integration 1 Item 4 (2019)
- 16)Annex4_Integration 2_Contemporary art and culture englisch
- 17)Annex4_Integration 3_englische Version historische Events Via Romea
- 18)Annex4_Integration 4 to ANNEX 4_Strategic Planning EN (foietta)
- 19)Annex4_Integration 5 education with schools in Germany (weiss)
- 20)Integration ANNEX 4.3_Educat young Europeans_2018-EAVRG-for-You Peo
- 21)3-years-programme_VR
- 22)2019-0406-bilancio-previsione-2019
- 23)Via_Romea_expenditure_german_association_2017-2019_english
- 24)2018-04-28-assamblea-verbale-finale
- 25)2019-03-25-verbale-direttivo
- 26)2019-04-06-assamblea-verbale
- 27)Annex 5_Visibility_appendix 22
- 28)Annex 7_Pubblications_Appendix from 15 to 20
- 29)ANNEX 7d_2019-09-12-EAVRG-VRG-Press-Review-Integration-2018
- 30)ANNEX 7d_2019-09-12-EAVRG-VRG-Press-Review-Integration-2019
- 31)Annex8_Economic & Tourism Impact_Appendix A21

Documents received during field visit:

2019-05-22-sistema-CONVENZIONE.pdf

Book: „Mit drei Lamas nach Rom“ by Thomas Mohr, 2019.

6. Annex 1: Expert field visit

Programme of the Field Visit and Persons Met

The field visit was accompanied constantly by the following representatives of the network:

- Flavio Foietta, President, EAVRG
- Rodolfo Valentini, Past President, Association Via Romea Germanica Italia
- Luigi Zoppello, Manager, EAVRG

18 December 2019

Arrival Bolzano

Meeting at the Tourist Office of Bolzano, incl. headquarter office of the EAVRG

- Stephan Konder, Vice Mayor, Municipality of Bolzano/Bozen, in charge of city marketing and tourism
- Paolo Pavan, President, Bolzano/Bozen Tourist Office
- Carlo Alberto Zanella, President Club Alpino Italiano (CAI) Bolzano
- Cesare Cucinato, Counsellor to Club Alpino Italiano (CAI) Bolzano and Via Romea Germanica Italia

19 December 2019

Visit of Valsugana Province:

Meeting at the APT Valsugana Tourist Agency

- Stefano Ravelli, Director, APT Valsugana Tourist Agency

Meeting at Arte Sella Land Art Park

- Giacomo Bianchi, President, Arte Sella Association for Art in Nature
- Emanuele Montibeller, Art Director, Arte Sella Association for Art in Nature

Conference Call with Thomas Dahms, Germany, President of the German Association Romweg – Abt Albert von Stade

Meeting at Municipality of Grigno

- Massimo Stefani, Municipality of Grigno, Head of Technical Office

Visit of Bassano

20 December 2019

Departure from Trento

7. Annex 2: Expert assessment checklist

	EXPERT ASSESSMENT CHECK-LIST		
3.1 THEME	Does the theme of the Route	Yes	No
	- represent a common value - historical, cultural, or heritage -to several European countries?	X	
	- offer a solid basis for		
	youth cultural and educational exchanges?	X	
	innovative activities?		X
	cultural tourism products development?	X	
	Has the theme been researched/developed by academics/experts from different regions of Europe?		X
3.2 FIELDS OF ACTION	3.2.1 Co-operation in research and development		
	Does the Route		
	- offer a platform for co-operation in research and development of European cultural themes/values?	X	
	- play a unifying role around major European themes, enabling dispersed knowledge to be brought together?	X	
	- show how these themes are representative of European values shared by several European countries?	X	
	- illustrate the development of these values and the variety of forms they may take in Europe?		X
	- have a network of universities and research center working on its theme at the European level?		X
	- have a multidisciplinary scientific committee?	X	
	Does the scientific Committee		
	work on its theme at the European level?	X	
	carry out research and analysis of the issues relevant to its theme and/or activities on:		
	- theoretical level?		X
	- practical level?	X	
	3.2.2 Enhancement of the memory, history and European heritage		
	Do the Route activities (according with the theme)		
	- take into account and explain the historical significance of tangible and intangible European heritage ?	X	
- promote the CoE values?	X		
- promote the CoE CRs brand?		X	
- work in conformity with international charters and conventions on cultural heritage preservation?	X		
- identify, preserve, and develop European heritage sites in rural destinations?	X		

- identify, preserve, and develop European heritage sites in industrial areas in the process of economic restructuring?		X
- valorize the heritage of ethnic or social minorities in Europe?	X	
- contribute to a better understanding of the concept of cultural heritage, the importance of its preservation and sustainable development?		X
- enhance physical and intangible heritage, explain its historical significance and highlight its similarities in the different regions of Europe?		X
- take account of and promote the charters, conventions, recommendations and work of the Council of Europe, UNESCO and ICOMOS relating to heritage restoration, protection and enhancement, landscape and spatial planning (European Cultural Convention, Faro convention, European Landscape Convention, World Heritage Convention, ...)?		X
3.2.3 Cultural and educational exchanges of young Europeans		
Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to		
- develop a better understanding of the concept of European citizenship?		X
- emphasize the value of new personal experience through visiting diverse places?	X	
- encourage social integration and exchanges of young people from different social backgrounds and regions of Europe?	X	
- offer collaborative opportunities for educational institutions at various levels?	X	
- place the emphasis on personal and real experiences through the use of places and contacts?	X	
- set up pilot schemes with several participating countries?		X
- give rise to co-operation activities which involve educational institutions at various levels?		X
3.2.4 Contemporary cultural and artistic practice		
Do the Route's cultural activities (contemporary cultural and artistic practice related)		
- promote intercultural dialogue and multidisciplinary exchange between various artistic expressions in European countries?		X
- encourage artistic projects that establish the links between cultural heritage and contemporary culture?		X
- encourage innovative cultural and contemporary art practices* connecting them with the history of skills development?	X	
- encourage collaboration between culture amateurs and professionals via relevant activities and networks creation?**	X	
-encourage debate and exchange - in a multidisciplinary and intercultural perspective - between various cultural and artistic expressions in different countries of Europe?	X	
- encourage activities and artistic projects which explore the links between heritage and contemporary culture?	X	
- highlight the most innovative and creative practices?		X

	- link these innovative and creative practices with the history of skills development?***		X
	3.2.5 Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development		
	Do the Route's activities (relevant to sustainable cultural tourism development)		
	- assist in local, regional, national and/ or European identity formation?	X	
	- actively involve 3 major means to raise awareness of their cultural projects: print, broadcast and social media?	X	
	- promote dialogue between		
	urban and rural communities and cultures?		X
	developed and disadvantaged regions?	X	
	different parts (south, north, east, west) of Europe?	X	
	majority and minority (or native and immigrant) cultures?		X
	- open possibilities for co-operation between Europe and other continents?		X
	- draw decision makers' attention to the necessity of protecting heritage as part of sustainable development of the territory?	X	
	- aim to diversify of cultural product, service and activities offers?	X	
	- develop and offer quality cultural tourism products, services or activities transnationally?	X	
	- develop partnerships with public and private organisations active in the field of tourism?	X	
	Did the network prepare and use tools all along the route to raise the number of visitors and the economic impacts of the route on the territories crossed?		
	Does the Route represent a network involving at least three Council of Europe's member states?	X	
	Was the theme of the network chosen and accepted by its members?	X	
	Was the conceptual framework for this network founded on a scientific basis?		X
	Does the network involve several Council of Europe member states in all or part of its project(s)?	X	
	Is the network financially sustainable?		X
	Does the network have a legal status (association, federation of associations, EEIG,...)?	X	
	Does the network operate democratically?	X	
	Does the network		
	- specify		
	its objectives and working methods?	X	
	the regions concerned by the project?	X	
	its partners and participating countries?	X	

	the fields of action involved?		X
	the overall strategy of the network in the short- and long term?		X
	- identify potential participants and partners in CoE member states and/or other world countries?		X
	- provide details of its financing (financial reports and/or activity budgets)?	X	
	- provide details of its operational plan?		X
	- append the basic text(s) confirming its legal status?	X	
3.4 COMMUNICATION TOOLS	Does the Route have its own logo?	X	
	Do all partners of the network use the logo on their communication tools?	X	
	Does the Route have its own dedicated website ?	X	
	Is it the website translated into English and French?		X
	Is it the website translated into other languages?	X	
	Does the network use effectively social networks and web 2.0?	X	
	Does the network publish brochures on the Route?	X	
	if yes, are the brochures translated in English?	X	
	if yes, are the brochures translated in French?		X
	SCORE	47	28