

Cultural Routes
of the Council of Europe
Itinéraires culturels
du Conseil de l'Europe



15 ADVISORY FORUM

YEREVAN, ARMENIA

23-25
SEPT
2026



EDUCATION FOR
SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE
ROUTES THROUGH TIME AND CULTURES



ARMENIA
The Hidden
Track



CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

15th ADVISORY FORUM

Routes through Time and Cultures: Education for Sustainable Heritage



INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

REMARQUES INTRODUCTIVES



Rui GOMES

*Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA)
European Institute of Cultural Routes*

*Accord partiel élargi sur les Itinéraires culturels du Conseil de l'Europe (APE)
Institut européen des Itinéraires culturels*





THEMATIC SESSION 3.1

BETTER REPRESENTATIVENESS OF CULTURAL ROUTES: YOUTH PARTICIPATION

SESSION THÉMATIQUE 3.1

UNE MEILLEURE REPRÉSENTATIVITÉ DES ITINÉRAIRES
CULTURELS : PARTICIPATION DES JEUNES



BETTER REPRESENTATIVENESS OF CULTURAL ROUTES: YOUTH PARTICIPATION

UNE MEILLEURE REPRÉSENTATIVITÉ DES ITINÉRAIRES CULTURELS : PARTICIPATION DES JEUNES



Moderated by

Carla MARTINS

University Network for Cultural Routes Studies

Réseau Universitaire d'études sur les Itinéraires Culturels



BETTER REPRESENTATIVENESS OF CULTURAL ROUTES: YOUTH PARTICIPATION

UNE MEILLEURE REPRÉSENTATIVITÉ DES ITINÉRAIRES CULTURELS : PARTICIPATION DES JEUNES



Leonardo PORCELLONI

University of Genoa

Université de Gênes



BETTER REPRESENTATIVENESS OF CULTURAL ROUTES: YOUTH PARTICIPATION

UNE MEILLEURE REPRÉSENTATIVITÉ DES ITINÉRAIRES CULTURELS : PARTICIPATION DES JEUNES



Julien VUILLEUMIER

*Federal Office of Culture, Switzerland
Office fédéral de la culture, Suisse*



BETTER REPRESENTATIVENESS OF CULTURAL ROUTES: YOUTH PARTICIPATION

UNE MEILLEURE REPRÉSENTATIVITÉ DES ITINÉRAIRES CULTURELS : PARTICIPATION DES JEUNES



Simone ZAGRODNIK

European Route of Historic Thermal Towns

Itinéraire européen des villes thermales historiques



BETTER REPRESENTATIVENESS OF CULTURAL ROUTES: YOUTH PARTICIPATION

UNE MEILLEURE REPRÉSENTATIVITÉ DES ITINÉRAIRES CULTURELS : PARTICIPATION DES JEUNES



Gohar MNATSAKANYAN
Sevan Youth Club



BETTER REPRESENTATIVENESS OF CULTURAL ROUTES: YOUTH PARTICIPATION

UNE MEILLEURE REPRÉSENTATIVITÉ DES ITINÉRAIRES CULTURELS : PARTICIPATION DES JEUNES



Zara ASLANYAN

Youth Policy Department, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports, Republic of Armenia

Département de la politique de la jeunesse, ministère de l'Éducation, des Sciences, de la Culture et des Sports de la République d'Arménie



BETTER REPRESENTATIVENESS OF CULTURAL ROUTES: YOUTH PARTICIPATION

UNE MEILLEURE REPRÉSENTATIVITÉ DES ITINÉRAIRES CULTURELS : PARTICIPATION DES JEUNES



Xesc MAINZER

Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe

Conseil consultatif sur la jeunesse, Conseil de l'Europe





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UNE MEILLEURE REPRÉSENTATIVITÉ DES ITINÉRAIRES
CULTURELS : PARTICIPATION DES JEUNES



BREAK

PAUSE

10h30 – 11h00





THEMATIC SESSION 3.2

SUSTAINABILITY, CULTURAL HERITAGE AND TOURISM:
STANDARDS FOR EDUCATION ON SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE

SESSION THÉMATIQUE 3.2

DURABILITÉ, PATRIMOINE CULTUREL ET TOURISME:
NORMES POUR L'ÉDUCATION AU PATRIMOINE DURABLE



SUSTAINABILITY, CULTURAL HERITAGE AND TOURISM: STANDARDS FOR EDUCATION ON SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE

DURABILITÉ, PATRIMOINE CULTUREL ET TOURISME: NORMES POUR L'ÉDUCATION AU PATRIMOINE DURABLE



Moderated by

Sharon SULTANA

EPA Governing Board Representative, Malta

Représentante de Malte au Conseil de direction de l'APE



SUSTAINABILITY, CULTURAL HERITAGE AND TOURISM: STANDARDS FOR EDUCATION ON SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE

DURABILITÉ, PATRIMOINE CULTUREL ET TOURISME: NORMES POUR L'ÉDUCATION AU PATRIMOINE DURABLE



Aysegül YILMAZ

Cultural Routes Independent Expert

Experte indépendante en itinéraires culturels



Local poetry in the village of Yeniköy, Şile, Istanbul

OUR VILLAGE

I would die for its air and water,
for its hospitable and wonderful people.
Something that is of most valuable is of course
its chestnut honey with healing power.
A most traditional dish of our village is
Bosnian borek made with very thin layers of dough.
Its Turkish ravioli like dish with butter and yogurt,
many varieties of desert,
its historic Bezmialem Valide Sultan Fountain.
One cannot have enough of its water.
Chestnuts fall down ending up in the streams of long valleys.
You will admire the many different trees.
The roe deer comes with its fawn to drink water.
Look at the squirrel jumping from one branch to another.
At dawn, hear all of the many bird songs,
the greatest joy of nature.
High mountaintops,
as if horizons and clouds merge.
Rains never lack, winds blow suddenly.
All living creatures here breathe the air easily.
Is there anything better than a breath?
Here is Grandpa Ahmet who loves you very much.
So much so, kissing you on your eyes...
This poem should be my gift to you all.
May God always care for You...



SUSTAINABILITY, CULTURAL HERITAGE AND TOURISM: STANDARDS FOR EDUCATION ON SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE

DURABILITÉ, PATRIMOINE CULTUREL ET TOURISME: NORMES POUR L'ÉDUCATION AU PATRIMOINE DURABLE



Stefanie BISCHOF

*The Hansa
La Hanse*



Addressing sustainability: Initiatives, events, exchange



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



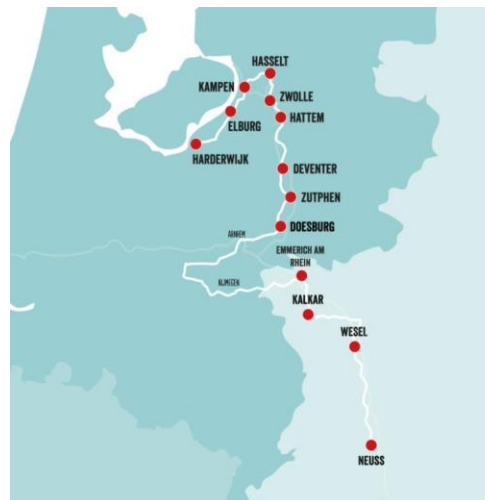


Greening of Cultural Routes

Sustainability is recognized as a highly relevant dimension of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme, not only in the priority field of action "Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development" but also as a cross-cutting theme. The Declaration of the 10th Annual Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe states that "Cultural Routes play an important role in contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030. They aim to become tools for innovation and drivers for new sustainable development models, and to position themselves at the vanguard of the mission for sustainability."

Nevertheless, the implementation of the Cultural Routes Programme and of the individual Cultural Routes does have an impact on the environment. The Programme and the routes should therefore strive to adopt eco-friendly practices for their main activities (such as publications and events) but also in daily routines. Both for the Programme and for the routes it is a matter of credibility to become aware of the environmental impact of their activities and to reduce their ecological footprint. Besides the focus on sustainable tourism, the routes can also play a role in local community development and engagement.

The recommendations below provide guidance on simple greening measures, which the Programme bodies, the Cultural Routes and individual route members are encouraged to apply in order to contribute to sustainable development. The content of this document is based on the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) publications on the topic (UNEP guide "kick the habit" and UNEP Green meeting Guide).



www.hanse.org

SUSTAINABILITY, CULTURAL HERITAGE AND TOURISM: STANDARDS FOR EDUCATION ON SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE

DURABILITÉ, PATRIMOINE CULTUREL ET TOURISME: NORMES POUR L'ÉDUCATION AU PATRIMOINE DURABLE



Maija OINONEN
Alvar Aalto Route



VISITOR'S GUIDE TO RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL ON THE ALVAR AALTO ROUTE



<https://visit.alvaraalto.fi/en/experiences/sustainability/>



ALVAR AALTO ROUTE
20th Century Architecture and Design

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



SUSTAINABILITY, CULTURAL HERITAGE AND TOURISM: STANDARDS FOR EDUCATION ON SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE

DURABILITÉ, PATRIMOINE CULTUREL ET TOURISME: NORMES POUR L'ÉDUCATION AU PATRIMOINE DURABLE



Tatjana HORVATIĆ

Ministry of Culture and Media, Croatia

Ministère de la Culture et des Médias, Croatie



SUSTAINABILITY, CULTURAL HERITAGE AND TOURISM: STANDARDS FOR EDUCATION ON SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE

DURABILITÉ, PATRIMOINE CULTUREL ET TOURISME: NORMES POUR L'ÉDUCATION AU PATRIMOINE DURABLE



Sandra VUJINOVIC

Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation

Organisation de la Coopération économique de la mer Noire



SUSTAINABILITY, CULTURAL HERITAGE AND TOURISM: STANDARDS FOR EDUCATION ON SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE

DURABILITÉ, PATRIMOINE CULTUREL ET TOURISME: NORMES POUR L'ÉDUCATION AU PATRIMOINE DURABLE



Raphael CALLOU

*Organisation of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture
Organisation des États ibéro-américains pour l'éducation, la science et la culture*





THEMATIC SESSION 3.2

SUSTAINABILITY, CULTURAL HERITAGE AND TOURISM:
STANDARDS FOR EDUCATION ON SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE

SESSION THÉMATIQUE 3.2

DURABILITÉ, PATRIMOINE CULTUREL ET TOURISME:
NORMES POUR L'ÉDUCATION AU PATRIMOINE DURABLE





CONCLUSIONS FROM THE BREAKOUT SESSIONS ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE IN PRACTICE

RESTITUTION DES SESSIONS EN GROUPES SUR L'ÉDUCATION POUR UN PATRIMOINE DURABLE EN PRATIQUE



PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE ROUTES FOR CERTIFICATION

PRÉSENTATION DES ITINÉRAIRES CANDIDATS À LA CERTIFICATION



Presented by

Eszter CSONKA-TAKÁCS

Vice-Chair of the Bureau of the EPA Governing Board

Vice-présidente du Bureau du Conseil de direction de l'APE



PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE ROUTES FOR CERTIFICATION

PRÉSENTATION DES ITINÉRAIRES CANDIDATS À LA CERTIFICATION



Sonja SKALNIK

Castle Route between Orient and Occident

Route des châteaux entre l'Orient et l'Occident



Castle Road between Orient and Occident

From Borders to Bridges

the historical cultural landscape between
the Danube, the Alps, the Adriatic Sea and the Balkans



CASTLE
ROAD

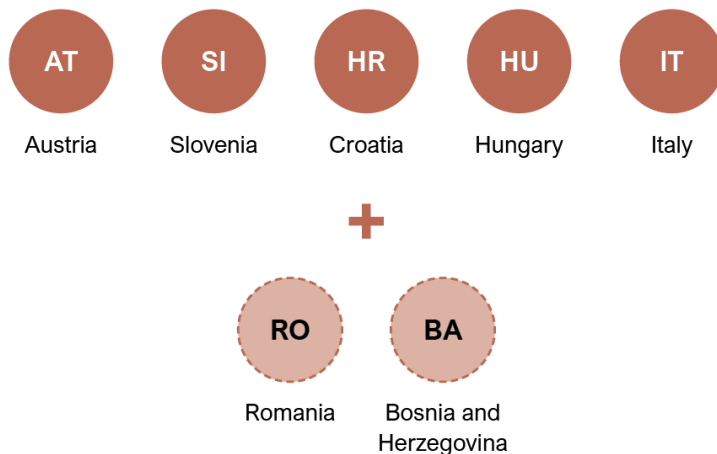
between Orient
and Occident



**CASTLE
ROAD**
between Orient
and Occident

A European Cultural Landscape between East and West

A shared historical and cultural region
extending across today's national borders.



Potential members currently under review
by the Scientific Advisory Board:
Romania and Bosnia and Herzegovina





**CASTLE
ROAD**
between Orient
and Occident

From a Regional Initiative to a Transnational Network

Founded at a Border. Growing Across Borders.

1987

Founding of the Castle Road

by nine historic heritage sites

47

Castles and Historic Sites

across the Castle Road network

5

Partner Countries

represented in the current network

European cooperation has been part of the Castle Road's
story from the very beginning.





**CASTLE
ROAD**
between Orient
and Occident

From Castles, Monasteries, Palaces and Fortresses to Meeting Places

Places built to defend borders now connect people across them.

ONCE



TODAY

Defence · Borders · Separation

Encounter · Connection · Cooperation





**CASTLE
ROAD**
between Orient
and Occident

European Cooperation in Practice

Our shared heritage becomes visible through concrete cross-border action.



Research

International Scientific Committee,
conferences and joint publications



Education & Youth

Ambassador programme, playful
learning formats and the Youth
Conference 2027



Digital Access

Shared online services and smart
visitor information



Sustainable Cultural Tourism

Cross-border routes, balanced visitor
flows and greater visibility for lesser-
known heritage sites

**4 cross-border
cooperation projects
connecting the Castle
Road network**





**CASTLE
ROAD**
between Orient
and Occident

Shaping Europe's Heritage Together

The Castle Road is ready to give its shared heritage a stronger European future.

Our Commitment

Young people as co-creators
Research and cultural exchange across borders
Responsible growth through new partnerships



What Certification Would Strengthen

European visibility
Long-term cross-border cooperation
Participation of more communities and institutions



**We are ready to take the next step together –
as a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe.
From borders to bridges.**



PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE ROUTES FOR CERTIFICATION

PRÉSENTATION DES ITINÉRAIRES CANDIDATS À LA CERTIFICATION



Daniela HAUF

*European Goethe Ways
les Voies européennes de Goethe*





www.goetheways.eu

Follow us on:



Daniela Stefanie Hauf, Managing Director
Françoise Tondre, Vice-President



Europäische Goethe-Wege e.V.
Burgplatz 4
DE-99423 Weimar
info@goetheways.eu
www.goetheways.eu

Theme of the Route

- The European Goethe Ways is a registered charity based in Weimar, bringing Goethe's multifaceted world of thought to life through itineraries across Europe – and building the community of cultural, educational and tourism institutions that carries them.
- The itineraries can be discovered by car, by bike or on foot and connecting the places and people that shaped his journeys across the continent.
- The European Goethe Ways also don't want to show only Goethe as the writer, whom everyone knows, but also Goethe the botanist, mineralogist, painter, mining engineer, and so on

Members

In Germany:

- Freies Deutsches Hochstift – Goethe House, Frankfurt am Main
- Goethe Society in Weimar
- City of Ilmenau
- Goethe Society Ilmenau-Stützerbach
- Baroque Route Saar-Pfalz
- Wetzlar Goethe Society
- Goethe Museum Düsseldorf /
- Anton and Katharina Kippenberg Foundation
- Hüttenberg Local History Society

In France:

- Association « Les Voies de Goethe – France »

In Italy:

- Casa di Goethe, Rome

In Switzerland:

- Goethe Society of Switzerland
- Tourism Museum Association
- Fondazione Sasso San Gottardo

In Czechia:

- City of Aš
- Carlsbad Convention Bureau, o.p.s.



Members Scientific Committee

From Germany:

- Prof. Dr Anne Bohnenkamp-Renken, Director of the Goethe House in Frankfurt and the Freies Deutsches Hochstift
- Prof. Dr. Sikander Singh, Director Literature Archive Saar-Lor-Lux-Elsass, Saarland University
- Prof. Dr Claus Kurt Zittel, Director of the Stuttgart Research Centre for Text Studies and Co-Director of the Laboratorio Bembo at Ca' Foscari University in Venice
- Klaus Friedrich, Cultural tourism and Cultural mediation

From France:

- Dr Sabine Bengel, Art historian at the Fondation de l'Œuvre Notre-Dame, Strasbourg
- Prof. em. Dr. Raymond Heitz, Prof. of Modern German Literature, Université de Lorraine, Metz
- Françoise Tondre, Vice-President of the Fédération des Conservatoires d'Espaces Naturels

From Italy:

- Prof. Dr Paola Paumgardhen, Prof. of Modern German Literature, Università Suor Orsola Benincasa, Naples

From Poland:

- Prof. Dr. hab. Wojciech Kunicki, Institute of German Studies, University of Wrocław

From the Switzerland:

- Dr Iwan Stössel, Curator of the Earth Sciences Collections at ETH Zurich

From Slovakia:

- Dr. phil., Dr. h.c. Milan Richter, Germanist, editor and translator

Main Activities:

- Celebrating of Goethe's Birthday on the 28. August



- Signposting of Goethe's travel routes and the development of travel programmes for visitors as part of sustainable tourism



- Organisation of various temporary exhibitions on a range of topics



opäische Goethe-Wege e.V.
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@goetheways.eu
v.goetheways.eu

Follow us on:



A prime example is a German-Italian cultural project that will open up new perspectives on cultural exchange between Germany and Italy starting in autumn 2026. Titled "In the Footsteps of Goethe's *Italian Journey*",

the project is set against the backdrop of the 75th anniversary of the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The project comprises two closely integrated components: an exhibition at the Casa di Goethe in Rome, Italy, and a digital game based on selected stops along Goethe's *Italian Journey*.



The picture shows, from left to right: Dr. Gregor Heinrich Lersch, Director of the Casa di Goethe in Rome, Italy; the Italian Minister of Culture, Alessandro Giuli; and the German Minister of State for Culture and Media, Wolfram Weimer.

The photo was taken by Andrea Veneri.

Follow us on:



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DE-99423 Weimar
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www.goetheways.eu

Thank you for your attention!



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PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE ROUTES FOR CERTIFICATION

PRÉSENTATION DES ITINÉRAIRES CANDIDATS À LA CERTIFICATION



Alexandra BITUŠÍKOVÁ
European Mining Routes
Routes minières européennes





MINES.B

THE EUROPEAN MINING ROUTES
OF SAINT BARBARA FEDERATION

2026–2027
CERTIFICATION CYCLE

European Mining Routes

A shared heritage, a shared journey

*Coordinated by the European Mining Routes
of Saint Barbara Federation - MINES.B - Iglesias, Sardinia*



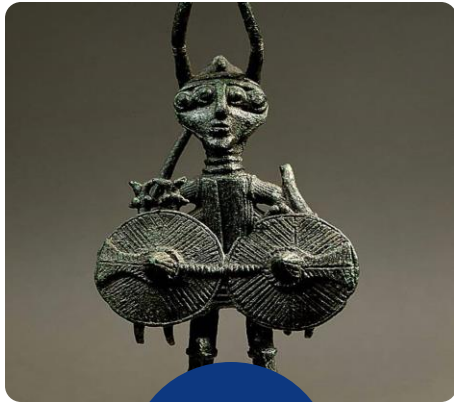
BELGIUM · FRANCE · ITALY · PORTUGAL · SLOVAKIA · SLOVENIA · SPAIN

25/09/2026, Yerevan – Armenia

Alexandra Bitušíková - President of the Scientific Committee of the European Mining Routes

A European historical network

For over 3000 years, mining has helped connect and bring together the peoples of Europe, from the discovery and use of the first metals to the birth of the European Union.



Prehistory

AGE OF METALS

Copper, Bronze and Iron eras named after mining.



Roman era

MINES OF THE EMPIRE

e.g. Sardinia (Italy) and Aljustrel (Portugal) supplied Rome.



Middle Ages

SILVER ROUTES

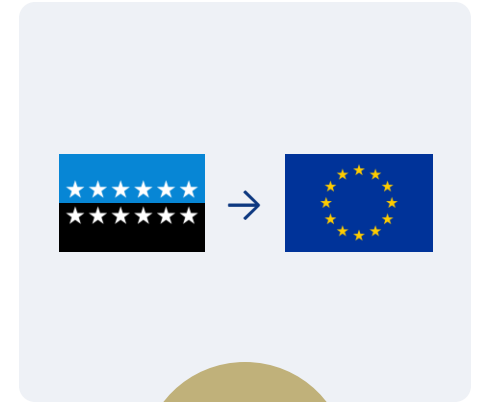
Linking Slovakia, Sardinia and central Europe to markets.



1700 - 1914

COAL, IRON, MERCURY

Foundations of industrialisation, as mining powered the growth of industry, railways and modern economies. E.g. Spain. Belgium and Slovenia.



1951

ECSC → THE EU

From the European Coal and Steel Community to the European Union.

One route, different trails, many layers of heritage

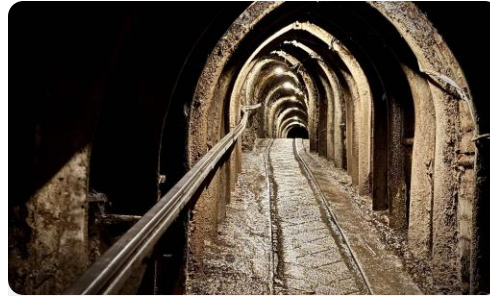


Explore Europe's mining heritage through slow, green and sustainable tourism.

Experienced on foot, by bicycle or on horseback:



Slow, low-impact tourism that turns dispersed sites into one coherent experience.



Mines & tunnels

Extraction sites and mining infrastructure



Workers' villages

Historic mining villages



Landscapes & geology

Mining landscapes and geological sites



Museums & archives

Interpretation and documentation



Cultural & religious heritage

Saint Barbara and shared traditions



Memories & communities

Living knowledge and identity

A European historical network

....that keeps growing



2020

Founded

Iglesias - Italy

Headquarters

26

Members

7

Countries

The mining trails at the core of the network:



ITALY

Cammino
Minerario di
Santa Barbara



SPAIN

Caminos Mineros
de Andorra Sierra de
Arcos



BELGIUM
and FRANCE

GR412
Le Sentier
des Terrils



SLOVAKIA

Barborská
Cesta



PORTUGAL

Aljustrel Tem
Uma Mina



SLOVENIA

Idrija Miners'
Routes

Around the trails: anchor sites · municipalities & regional authorities · geo-mining parks · museums · universities · cultural associations

What happens along the route

The trails become platforms for European **cooperation**, **exchange** and **sustainable tourism**.



MEN AND WOMEN OF MINING

A traveling photographic exhibition touring the partner countries.



VOICES FROM THE MINE

A documentary by young European filmmakers capturing miners' stories and youth exchange across different nations.



SAINT BARBARA PUBLICATION

A shared study of the mining traditions our territories hold in common.



MINES.B THESIS AWARD

Supporting young researchers working on Europe's mining heritage.



EUROPEAN MINING ROUTES DAY

Celebrated every 9 May, coinciding with Europe Day.



RESEARCH & EDUCATION

Scientific Committee: research expertise and agreements with universities.

A European route for the future

Putting into practice the values of the Council of Europe.



Living heritage

Preserved and transmitted by the communities who inhabit these territories.



Intercultural dialogue

Mining regions sharing a common past despite different languages and traditions.



Territorial regeneration

Heritage and sustainable tourism creating new opportunities where decline left few.

Turning Europe's mining past into a shared future – connecting territories, people and cultures along the paths of our mining heritage.

The members of the European Mining Routes



Ordinary members



Institutional members



Provincia del Sulcis Iglesiente



Municipality of Idrija



Municipality of Estercuel



Municipality of Andorra



Municipality of Crivillén

Honorary members



PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE ROUTES FOR CERTIFICATION

PRÉSENTATION DES ITINÉRAIRES CANDIDATS À LA CERTIFICATION



Filippo CAILOTTO

Forte Cultura - Cultural Route of Fortified Monuments

FORTE CULTURA – Itinéraire culturel européen du patrimoine fortifié





FORTE CULTURA

European Cultural Route of Fortified Heritage

*A Journey in European History and Ingenuity
through the Evolution of Military Architecture
from the 15th to the 20th century*

FROM BASTIONS TO BUNKERS

FORTRESSES FOR CULTURE AND PEACE

Official candidate • 2026–2027 certification cycle

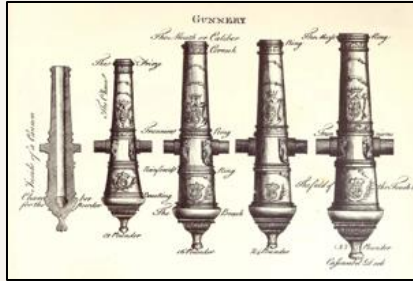
15th Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe
Yerevan, Armenia • 25 September 2026



The evolution of fortified heritage: from bastions to bunkers



Late 15th c.



GUNPODER REVOLUTION

The development of powerful siege cannons rendered medieval defenses obsolete.

16th–17th c.



BASTIONED CITIES

The defensive systems turned from towered towns to bastioned cities.

18th–19th c.



FORTRESS SYSTEMS

Development of advanced bastions, polygonal forts and strategic defence systems.

20th c.



BUNKERS & DEFENCE LINES

Underground structures and massive concrete defence lines.

Not a random accumulation of military artifacts, but a continuous European record.

TECHNOLOGY • IDEAS • ENGINEERS • TECHNICAL MODELS • ACROSS BORDERS

A strong European narrative

“

How can places once built for exclusion, defence and violence become places of encounter, learning, culture and peace?

The core of FORTE CULTURA's mission

We do not celebrate war. We reinterpret fortified heritage for contemporary Europe.



DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP

Fortified heritage as a platform for participation and civic reflection.



INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

Shared places and memories as opportunities for encounter and cooperation.



INCLUSION & ACCESSIBILITY

Accessible interpretation for different publics and needs.



PRESERVATION OF MEMORY

Critical interpretation of conflict, war and Europe's difficult pasts.



A route built through **clusters**

An **archipelago route**: a European constellation of systems.

A cluster's added value:

CRITICAL MASS

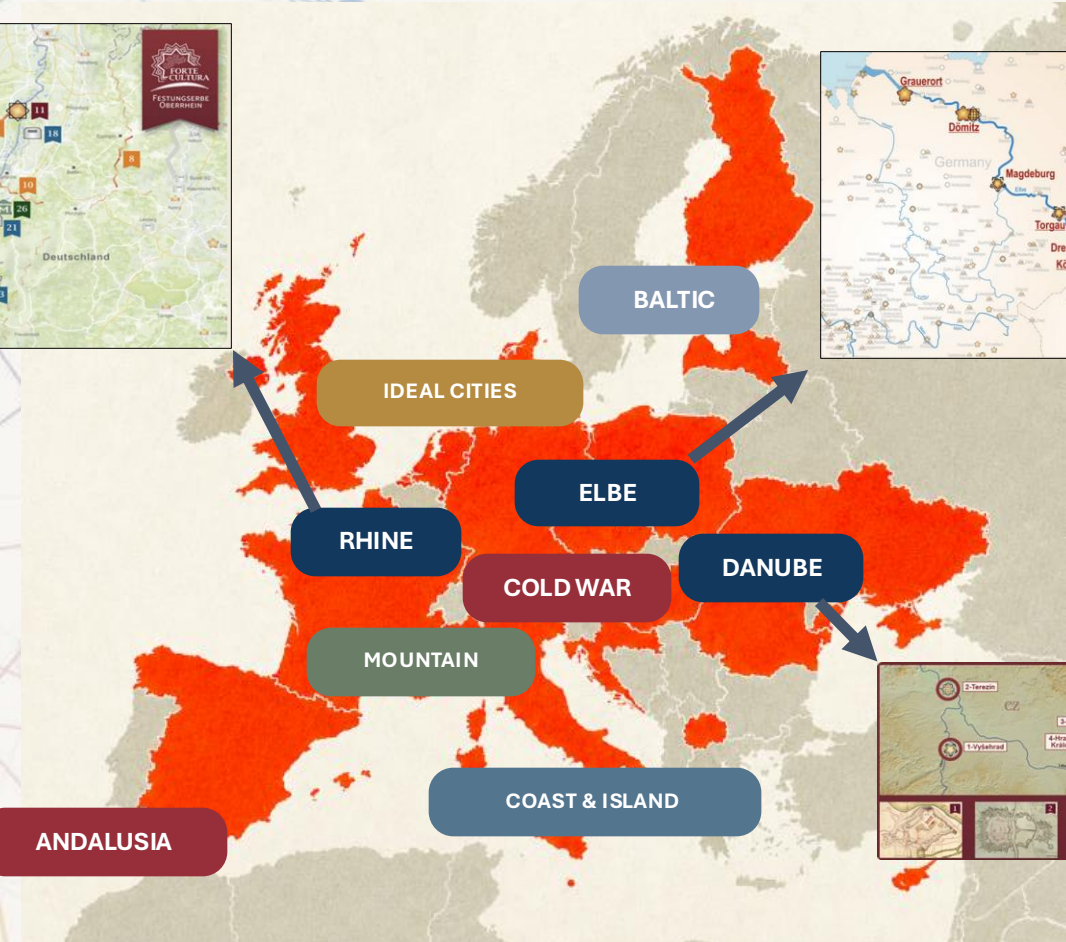
Sites, institutions, skills and territories work together.

SHARED TERRITORIAL IDENTITY

Partners pursue common goals while local identities remain visible.

RICHER VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Thematic journeys link heritage, landscape, communities and European history.



OPERATING Elbe • Upper Rhine • Bohemia fortresses

LAUNCHED Andalusia

NEXT Coastal & Island — Oct 2026 • Fortified Ideal Cities — Apr 2027



A professional European network in action

Founded in 2014 through Interreg Central Europe, it is based in Berlin (D) • today: an operational network across Europe.

70+ Members

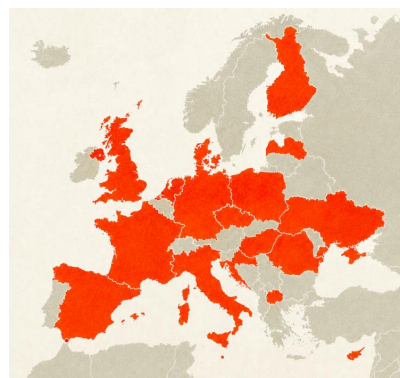
including UNESCO WH
cities and sites

- Municipalities,
- Fortresses,
- Cultural Institutions
- Associations,
- Universities,
- Experts
- Tourism partners.

**This diversity is
our strength.**

18 European countries

- Croatia,
- Cyprus,
- Czech Republic,
- Denmark,
- Finland,
- France,
- Germany,
- Hungary,
- Italy,
- Latvia,
- Malta,
- Netherlands,
- North Macedonia,
- Poland,
- Romania,
- Spain,
- Ukraine,
- United Kingdom, including Gibraltar



Annual congresses & expert seminars

Professional exchange, training and capacity building

Scientific Committee & publications

Research, universities and scientific outputs

Pilot & Study Tours

Practical route operation and territorial testing

University & youth cooperation

Learning, exchanges and participation

Digital & interpretation tools

Guide for Guides, digital tools and visitor interpretation

Inclusion & accessibility

Braille, audio, easy-language and inclusive signposting



The next step: consolidation

Council of Europe certification would give us
the *European institutional framework* to consolidate our strategies.

Our ambition:

Not walls that separate, but places that bring people together.

Thank you!



PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE ROUTES FOR CERTIFICATION

PRÉSENTATION DES ITINÉRAIRES CANDIDATS À LA CERTIFICATION



Levente István FÖLDVÁRY

Mary's Route – Connecting communities through heritage

Route de Marie – Relier les communautés par le patrimoine



Mary's Route

Connecting communities through heritage

“A living European network where Marian heritage, pilgrimage and local communities become a shared future”



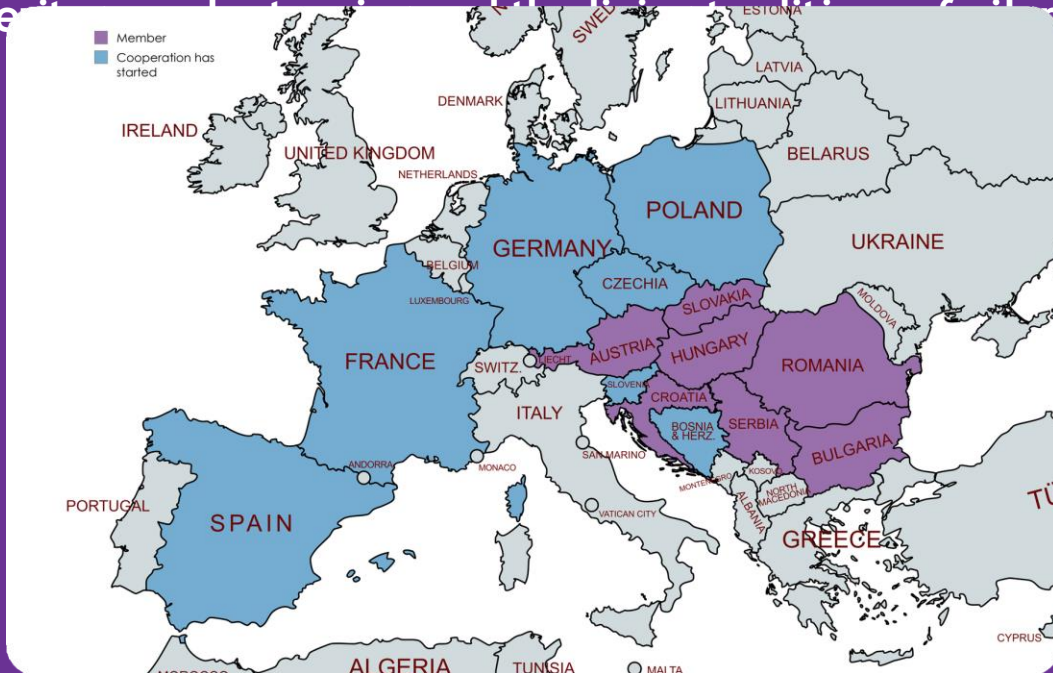
15th Advisory Forum | Yerevan | 2026

Levente István Földváry



Theme of Mary's Route

A transnational cooperation network built around Marian heritage and pilgrimage



17 members from 7 countries
2000+ km marked trail



Heritage

Marian shrines, stories, art, music, landscapes, rural cultural heritage and hospitality

Pilgrimage

Slow movement that becomes direct encounter

300+ volunteers

Community

Local people are not only service points: they are the holders of heritage

Culture

Cultural heritage becomes
encounter, participation and
long-term cooperation

Rural and local values, monuments

Choirs, brass bands, dance groups

Erasmus+ projects

Marian gardens

Educational exhibitions





Conference series 2026 (Erasmus+)

- 500+ young people from 20+ countries
 - Promoting Cultural Routes, sharing knowledge
- Intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding
 - Scientific research about youth
- Democratic participation and community involvement
- International exchange students (Erasmus+)
- Cultural diversity, inclusion and social cohesion
 - Visiting cultural heritage sites in Hungary
- Trail marking - sustainable tourism
- International rafting at the Slovakian-Hungarian border

Youth

Sustainable Tourism

Environmental responsibility and sustainable local development

Cultural pilgrimages - 180 events / year

1000 km to Şumuleu

'1Route' International Day of Pilgrimage

2000 participants in 5 countries

Introductory pilgrimages

Expanding Mary's Route tourist offices

Mary's Marathon

Pilgrimage camps movement



Vision

From a candidate route to a living European partnership

Grow

from Central and Eastern Europe towards wider European participation

Co-create

joint projects in pilgrimage, youth, research, culture and sustainable tourism

Invite

partners who want to turn shared heritage into shared responsibility

Let us connect communities through heritage and begin with concrete cooperation.



Thank you!

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE ROUTES FOR CERTIFICATION

PRÉSENTATION DES ITINÉRAIRES CANDIDATS À LA CERTIFICATION



Apolónia RODRIGUES

Places of Peace - The European Route of Peace Heritage

Lieux de Paix - L'Itinéraire Européen du Patrimoine de la Paix



Places of Peace

The European Route of Peace Heritage

Historic places where peace agreements
were negotiated and signed



Places of Peace
THE EUROPEAN ROUTE OF
PEACE HERITAGE

Apolónia Rodrigues

Yerevan, 25 September 2026

Candidate for Council of Europe certification 2026–2027

Khotyn, Ukraine



Historic agreements. Living places.

One shared theme connects castles, palaces, monasteries and historic towns



Trenčín

Treaty of 1335



Zadar

Treaty of 1358



Evoramonte

Convention of 1834

Research and public interpretation connect this history with life today

13 places across 9 countries

A shared cultural route spanning Europe



Khotyn

Ukraine

**Active partner
since 2021**

Including Erasmus
cooperation

Portugal, Spain, Germany, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Bulgaria, Türkiye, Ukraine

Sites shown approximately. © EuroGeographics for the administrative boundaries

A route people can experience

300+

young participants



Young people learn together

Exchanges, training and peace education

Alcáçovas, July 2026



Visitors meet local heritage

Guided visits, commemorations
and cultural events

Hubertusburg, Germany

An established European network

2010

Continuous cooperation

Municipalities, heritage organisations,
museums and academic partners

2022

Scientific Committee

2023

Erasmus+ accreditation

2024

Peace Heritage Observatory
(pilot phase)

2026

European Heritage Label

University network established

Seven Route sites hold the European Heritage Label

EU recognition complements this separate Council of Europe application

Peace heritage for Europe's next generation

Shared research and interpretation

More young people learning across borders

Sustainable cultural tourism

A living European network, ready for its next chapter

placesofpeace.eu | placesofpeaceroute.eu

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE ROUTES FOR CERTIFICATION

PRÉSENTATION DES ITINÉRAIRES CANDIDATS À LA CERTIFICATION



Marcel VAN DEN BROEK
Saint George and the Dragon
Saint Georges et le dragon



EUROPEAN CULTURAL ROUTE SAINT GEORGE — AND THE — DRAGON



SHARED LEGEND. SHARED HERITAGE. SHARED EUROPE.



BEESSEL
NETHERLANDS



MONTBLANC
SPAIN



MONÇÃO
PORTUGAL



GREZ-DOICEAU
BELGIUM



FURTH IM WALD
GERMANY

Who Was Saint George?

- Roman soldier
- Christian martyr
- Symbol of courage, protection and justice.



The European Cultural Route

- Shared heritage
- Festivals
- Traditions
- Education and cooperation across Europe.



Partner Municipalities



Beesel, Netherlands



Montblanc, Spain



Monção, Portugal



Grez-Doiceau, Belgium



Furth im Wald, Germany

Why This Route Matters

- Shared values
- cultural tourism
- Community spirit
- European identity



Conclusion

Saint George and the Dragon:
A living network of stories, traditions and
cross-border cooperation.



LUNCH

PAUSE DÉJEUNER

13h00 - 14h30





B2B SESSIONS

EPA Governing Board Members/International
Organisations and Representatives of Cultural Routes

Membres du Conseil de direction de l'APE /
Organisations internationales et représentants des
Itinéraires culturels



Member state	14:45-15:00	15:00-15:15	15:15-15:30	15:30-15:45	15:45-16:00	16:00-16:15
Armenia	Prehistoric Rock Art Trails	Iron Age Danube Route	Leonardo Da Vinci Route	European Route of Historic Gardens	European Route of Historic Pharmacies	European Route of Industrial Heritage
Croatia	Iter Vitis Route	Transhumance				St Francis Ways
Cyprus	European Route of Historic Pharmacies	Leonardo Da Vinci Route	European Route of Ceramics	European Route of Megalithic Culture	Iter Vitis Route	European Route of Historic Gardens
Czech Republic	Women Writers Route	European Route of Historic Gardens	Iron Age Danube Route	Réseau Art Nouveau Network	ATRIUM	Romea Strata
Finland		Route of Saint Olav Ways	Transhumance	Le Corbusier Destinations		European Route of Historic Pharmacies
Greece	Via Querinissima	Aeneas Route	European Route of Historic Pharmacies	European Fairy Tale Route	European Route of Ceramics	Phoenicians' Route
Hungary	Singing Heritage Route	St Francis Ways	ATRIUM	Women Writers Route	Leonardo Da Vinci R.	Impressionisms Routes
Ireland	Impressionisms Routes	E. R. of Megalithic Culture			Transhumance	
Italy	Alvar Aalto Route	In the Footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson	Impressionisms Routes	Saint James Way	European Routes of Emperor Charles V	European Fairy Tale Route
Malta	European Fairy Tale Route	European Routes of Emperor Charles V		Iter Vitis Route	Destination Napoleon	Transhumance
Norway	European Route of Jewish Heritage	Iron Route in the Pyrenees	Destination Napoleon	Transhumance	European Route Singing Heritage Route	Route of Saint Olav Ways
Poland	The Hansa	Romea Strata	Singing Heritage Route	European Paganini Route	European Route of Historic Thermal Towns	Réseau Art Nouveau Network
Slovak Republic	ATRIUM	Women Writers Route	Réseau Art Nouveau Network	Iron Age Danube Route	European Route of Industrial Heritage	European Route of Historic Thermal Towns
Slovenia	Destination Napoleon	Phoenicians' Route	European Paganini Route	European Route of Historic Pharmacies	St Francis Ways	Iron Route in the Pyrenees
Spain	St Francis Ways	Prehistoric Rock Art Trails	Women Writers Route	Via Querinissima	Saint Olav Ways / Fairy Tale Route	Via Francigena
Sweden	Transhumance	Destination Napoleon	Route of Saint Olav Ways	European Route of Ceramics	The Hansa	European Route of Jewish Heritage
Switzerland	Via Francigena	European Fairy Tale Route	Le Corbusier Destinations:	Alvar Aalto Route	Huguenot and Waldensian Trail	Via Querinissima
The Netherlands	European Paganini Route	European Route of Jewish Heritage	In the Footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson	The Hansa	Women Writers Route	Destination Napoleon
Ukraine	Phoenicians' Route	Le Corbusier Destinations	VIA REGIA	Impressionisms Routes	European Route of Jewish Heritage	Iter Vitis Route
OEI	Iron Route in the Pyrenees	Via Francigena	Iter Vitis Route	European Route of Jewish Heritage	Saint James Way	Women Writers Route
Youth Working Group	Route of Saint Olav Ways	European Paganini Route	Romea Strata	In the Footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson	Phoenicians' Route	Prehistoric Rock Art Trails
UNESCO	E.R. of Megalithic Culture	Iter Vitis Route	Saint Francis Ways	Saint Olav Ways	Romea Strata	Saint James Way

BREAK

PAUSE

16h30 – 17h00



Cultural Routes
of the Council of Europe
Itinéraires culturels
du Conseil de l'Europe



15 ADVISORY FORUM

YEREVAN, ARMENIA

23-25
SEPT
2026



EDUCATION FOR
SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE
ROUTES THROUGH TIME AND CULTURES



ARMENIA
The Hidden
Track





CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FORUM

CONCLUSIONS ET RECOMMANDATIONS DU FORUM



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FORUM

CONCLUSIONS ET RECOMMANDATIONS DU FORUM



Seda AGHBALYAN

Tourism and heritage expert

Experte en tourisme et patrimoine





15th Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Routes Through Time and Cultures: Education for Sustainable Heritage

Yerevan, Armenia | 23-25 September 2026

Policy Dialogue: The Role of Education for Sustainable Heritage

1



KEY CONCLUSION

Education and culture are mutually reinforcing public goods. Heritage education can connect knowledge, participation and democratic cultural life.

KEY RECOMMENDATION

Strengthen coordination between cultural, educational and heritage policies and embed heritage more systematically in formal, non-formal and lifelong learning.

Zhanna Andreasyan

Forum visual; the adjacent text is a collective Forum conclusion, not a verbatim quotation.



KEY CONCLUSION

Heritage education helps connect people across borders and generations and supports dialogue around Europe's shared and diverse cultural inheritance.

KEY RECOMMENDATION

Build long-term ecosystems linking public authorities, schools, universities, museums, communities, civil society and Cultural Routes.

Roberto Olla

Collective memory and the role of culture in dialogue were specifically highlighted in the Forum discussions.

Thematic Session 2: Enhancing Education for Heritage through Digital Tools

3



KEY CONCLUSION

Digital innovation is valuable when it serves educational purpose, access, interpretation and participation - not technology for its own sake.

KEY RECOMMENDATION

Use reliable sources, accessible design, ethical governance and sustainable maintenance; balance digital experiences with direct engagement with heritage.

Alfred Kocharyan

The Forum also stressed the strategic link between education and culture; the slide text synthesises the session as a whole.



KEY CONCLUSION

The breakout work translated the Forum's values into practical action across policy, formal and non-formal learning, inclusion, tourism and exchange.

KEY RECOMMENDATION

Turn educational ambition into resourced action plans, peer learning, stronger cooperation and assessment of educational and social outcomes.

Rui Gomes

The importance of cultural heritage education as a core programme dimension was highlighted in the Forum context.

Educational Policies and Programmes

4.1



KEY CONCLUSION

Cultural Routes should increasingly function as educational spaces and as a learning network, moving beyond isolated short-term projects.

KEY RECOMMENDATION

Integrate heritage education into policy frameworks, resource long-term strategies and evaluate outcomes rather than activity outputs alone.

Nazeni Gharibyan

The adjacent wording is a collective breakout conclusion, not an individual quotation.



KEY CONCLUSION

Heritage-based learning can make curricula tangible and connect learners with local environments and wider European narratives.

KEY RECOMMENDATION

Develop adaptable learning resources and stronger partnerships among teachers, universities, museums, heritage professionals and Cultural Routes.

Sergio Ortega Muñoz

Youth participation and digital engagement were highlighted during the Forum; the session conclusion remains collective.

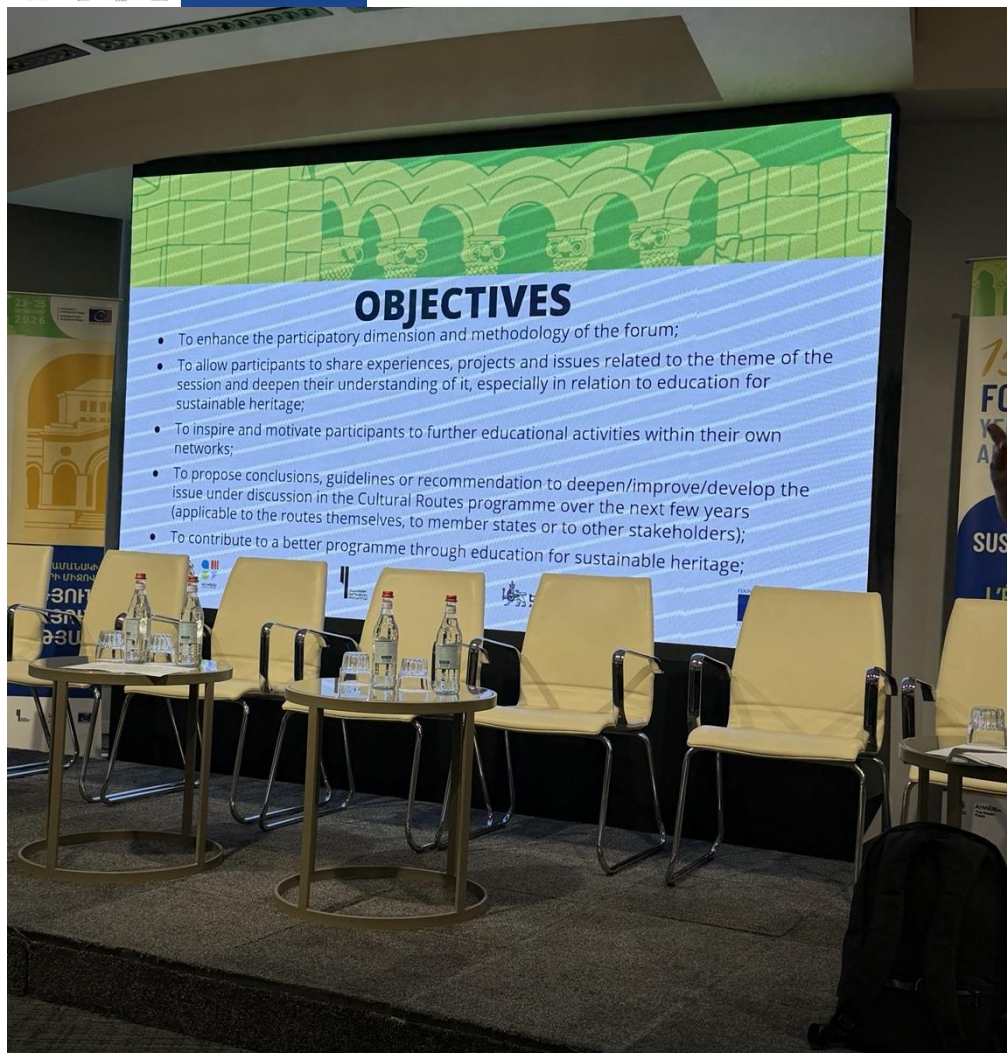


KEY CONCLUSION

Direct engagement with places, objects, traditions, crafts and communities can foster creativity, participation and responsibility.

KEY RECOMMENDATION

Expand learner-centred experiential approaches, connect formal and non-formal learning and recognise community practitioners as educators.



KEY CONCLUSION

Equal access to cultural participation and learning is a condition of sustainable heritage education.

KEY RECOMMENDATION

Address physical, digital, social, economic, geographical and linguistic barriers from the design stage and involve underrepresented groups.



KEY CONCLUSION

Travel becomes educational when it combines contextual knowledge, critical reflection, multiple perspectives and meaningful encounters with communities.

KEY RECOMMENDATION

Link sustainable tourism with learning, responsible visitor engagement, mobility and cooperation between Routes, educators and tourism stakeholders.

Thematic Session 3: Towards a Better and Stronger Cultural Routes Programme

5



KEY CONCLUSION

The Programme's future strength depends on combining continuity with renewal: representativeness, youth participation, sustainability and educational quality.

KEY RECOMMENDATION

Preserve the autonomy and diversity of Routes while strengthening a common values-based framework rooted in human rights, democracy, cultural diversity and dialogue.

A Better Programme: Representativeness and Youth Participation

5.1

KEY CONCLUSION

Representativeness concerns geography as well as the diversity of histories, communities, perspectives and forms of heritage.

KEY RECOMMENDATION

Create sustained opportunities for youth co-creation and decision-making and strengthen outreach to underrepresented territories and communities.





KEY CONCLUSION

Sustainability requires balance between heritage protection, community wellbeing, education and tourism.

KEY RECOMMENDATION

Promote responsible and lower-impact visitor practices and ensure tourism contributes to heritage protection and sustainable territorial development.

Standards for Education on Sustainable Heritage

5.3



KEY CONCLUSION

Educational quality needs a common values-based basis without rigid standardisation, leaving room for different Routes, territories and learning environments.

KEY RECOMMENDATION

Develop shared guiding principles and practical tools around participation, inclusion, reliable knowledge, accessibility, sustainability and learning outcomes.



Cross-cutting Conclusions and Recommendations



- 1 Strengthen the culture-education-heritage nexus.
- 2 Move from individual projects to sustainable ecosystems of cooperation.
- 3 Put inclusion, participation and youth engagement at the centre.
- 4 Use digital innovation responsibly and purposefully.
- 5 Strengthen educational quality, sustainability and evidence of impact.



YEREVAN FORUM - FINAL MESSAGE

Education should be understood as a core dimension of the Cultural Routes Programme.

Education for sustainable heritage is also education for democratic culture: it enables people to understand heritage, engage critically with different narratives, participate in cultural life and assume shared responsibility for transmission.

Cultural Routes can serve as living European learning spaces.



CLOSING SESSION SÉANCE DE CLÔTURE





Renewal of Certifications for Cultural Routes in 2026

Renouvellement des certifications des Itinéraires culturels en 2026



Renewal of Certifications for Cultural Routes in 2026

Renouvellement des certifications des Itinéraires culturels en 2026



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



Cultural route
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du Conseil de l'Europe



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Women
Writers
Route

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



Presentation of the 2027 Training Academy

Présentation de l'Académie de formation 2027



Presented by

Victor SORENSSEN

European Route of Jewish Heritage

Itinéraire européen du patrimoine juif



Izmir- Türkiye • 2–5 June 2027

Training Academy of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

Hosted by the European Association for the Preservation
and Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage and the Izmir
Metropolitan Municipality

Victor Sorensen
Director, AEPJ

aepj
jewish heritage

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





EUROPEAN ROUTE OF JEWISH HERITAGE

Nine synagogues, one historic quarter

Kemeraltı holds one of the oldest surviving synagogue complexes in the Mediterranean, a living setting for restoration, interpretation and route development.



BIKUR HOLIM

Painted ceilings and a canopied tevah.



KEMERALTI

Bazaar life around the synagogues.



SEPHARDIC Festival

Music, memory and living tradition.



EPHESUS



PERGAMON



HISTORIC PORT CITY

TRAINING ACADEMY 2027

A city on many routes at once

HISTORIC PORT CITY

A Mediterranean trade hub linking the Silk Road to the sea.

HELLENISTIC LEGACY

Ephesus and Pergamon as field-based learning landscapes.

GENOESE TRADE ROUTE

Coastal fortifications and layered maritime exchange.

ITER VITIS & OLIVE TREE ROUTES

Aegean vineyards, gastronomy and rural heritage.

Thank you

We look forward to welcoming the Cultural Routes community to Izmir from 2 to 5 June 2027.

Victor Sorensen

Director, AEPJ

director@jewishheritage.org

aepj
jewishheritage

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



Awarding of Inspiring Practices by Cultural Routes Prix des pratiques Inspirantes des Itinéraires culturels du Conseil de l'Europe



Rui GOMES

*Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA)
European Institute of Cultural Routes*

*Accord partiel élargi sur les Itinéraires culturels du Conseil de l'Europe (APE)
Institut européen des Itinéraires culturels*



Co-operation in research and development Coopération en matière de recherche et de développement

ATRIUM:

“Students as Heritage Mediators: International
Experimental Labs for the Interpretation of Difficult
Heritage”



Enhancement of memory, history, and European
culture

Valorisation de la mémoire, de l'histoire, et du
patrimoine européen

Routes des Impressionnismes :
“Partnership with the National Gallery of Armenia”



Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans Échanges culturels et éducatifs pour les jeunes européens

European Cemeteries Route:
"Life Lessons – Cemeteries as Educational Heritage"



Réseau Art Nouveau Network:
"Summer School – Bringing Art Nouveau heritage back to



Contemporary cultural and artistic practice Pratique culturelle et artistique contemporaine

Iron Age Danube Route: “Situlae Festival – Iron Age Heritage in Contemporary Craft and Art”



Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development

Tourisme culturel et développement culturel durable

Via Francigena:

“DETOUR: Developing Resilient Tourism Ecosystems along Mediterranean Routes”





CLOSING REMARKS

REMARQUES DE CLÔTURE



CLOSING REMARKS

REMARQUES DE CLÔTURE



Alfred KOCHARYAN

Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports, Republic of Armenia

Ministère de l'Éducation, de la Culture, de la Jeunesse et des Sports de l'Arménie



CLOSING REMARKS

REMARQUES DE CLÔTURE



Karen AVETISYAN

*Cultural Development Foundation
la Fondation pour le développement culturel*



CLOSING REMARKS REMARQUES DE CLÔTURE



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Institut européen des Itinéraires culturels*



GALA DINNER

DINER DE GALA

Zvartnots Cathedral

19h00 Bus departure from:
Republic Square, Government Parking Lot



CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

15th ADVISORY FORUM

Routes through Time and Cultures: Education for Sustainable Heritage



