Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe
« Connecting European heritage through space and time »

Mr Georges Kalamantis
Representative of the Ministry of Culture of Greece
to the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA)
Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

Launched by the Council of Europe in 1987 to tell the story of our shared heritage through itineraries crisscrossing Europe and beyond. 32 Cultural Routes have been certified by the Council of Europe and are permeated by their rich thematic history.

Understanding our common European cultural heritage embracing the most fundamental values of the Council of Europe: human rights, cultural diversity, democratic citizenship, mutual exchanges and understanding.
Mission and Added Value

• Promote **European Cultural heritage and identity**

• Strength the **democratic dimension of cultural exchange and tourism, SMEs development**…

• …though the **involvement** of local and regional authorities, grassroots networks, associations, universities, professional organisations.
Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

Since 1987
### 32 Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

Crossing more than 50 countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Linear routes</th>
<th>Territorial Routes</th>
<th>Reticular Pattern routes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Historical infrastructure</td>
<td>Territorial contiguity of the territories involved</td>
<td>«Virtual» routes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Via Francigena, Santiago de Compostela, Phoenician’s route**

**Iter Vitis, El Legado Andalusi, Routes of the Olive Tree**

**The Hansa, European Mozart Ways, European routes of Jewish heritage, European Cemeteries Routes, Historical Thermal Towns**
32 Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe
Criteria for certification
Committee of Ministers Resolution (2013) 67

- **European Theme**
- **European Network** (3+ countries)
- **Different fields of action**
  - Research
  - Interpretation | Narrative function
  - European citizenship | Young people
  - Creation of new economies
  - Contemporary cultural and artistic practice
  - Sustainable tourism and development
Cultural Routes certification cycle
Resolution CM/RES(2013)66

Candidates
- Application dossier (September N+0)
- Examination by the EICR of compliance of the dossier with criterias (October N+0)

Evaluation
- Expert evaluation report (January N+1)
- Recommendation by the EICR and examination by the Bureau of the Governing Board (February N+1)

Certification
- Approval/dissaproval/recommendations by the Governing Board (April N+1)
Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA)

**TASKS**
- Awards “Council of Europe Cultural Route” certification
- Provides advice and expert assistance to Certified Cultural Routes for development, implementation, evaluation and promotion of the cultural routes; Provides advice to Candidate cultural routes

**STAKEHOLDERS**
- Ministries of Culture and Tourism
- Enlarged Membership (Mediterranean)
- Observers and International Organizations
- Local and regional authorities

**MAIN ACTIVITIES**
- Cultural Routes certification
- Annual Forum
- Training Academy
European Institute of Cultural Routes

EPA Headquarter and Council of Europe Technical Agency for the implementation of the Cultural Route programme, with the support of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Missions

- Advising, Monitoring, Evaluation
- Training, Promotion, Visibility
- University Network
UNWTO and the Council of Europe signed in a Memorandum of Cooperation for 2016-2018.

The MoU has for objective to foster close cooperation on policy approaches in the field of sustainable cultural tourism development and to ensure a strategic framework for cooperation.

UNWTO and the Council of Europe shall work towards the development and the promotion of cultural tourism in the Council of Europe certified routes and additional cultural routes of mutual interest, such as the Western Silk Road.
The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe
The Phoenicians’ Route (2003)
The Routes of the Olive Tree (2005)
The Iter Vitis Route (2009)
Thank you for your attention

www.culture-routes.net

www.coe.int/routes