

HIGHLIGHTS 2022

Accessions to the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA)

- Accession of 3 new Member States: Albania, Lebanon, North Macedonia.

Observer to the EPA

The Czech Republic was granted Observer status with the EPA for 2022.

Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe certifications in 2022

- 3 new Cultural Routes were certified by the EPA Governing Board at their meeting of 5-6 May in Luxembourg:
 - Historic Cafés Route
 - European Fairy Tale Route
 - Women Writers Route
- 12 Cultural Routes had certification renewed following their regular evaluation by the EPA Governing Board at their meeting of 5-6 May in Luxembourg:
 - ATRIUM - Architecture of Totalitarian Regimes of the 20th Century In Europe's Urban Memory
 - European Cemeteries Route
 - European Route of Historic Thermal Towns
 - Impressionisms Routes
 - Phoenicians' Route
 - Prehistoric Rock Art Trails
 - Réseau Art Nouveau Network
 - Route of Saint Olav Ways
 - Saint Martin of Tours Route
 - Via Habsburg
 - European Route of Ceramics
 - Fortified Towns of the Grande region

Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe: Throughout its 6-month term, the Italian Presidency highlighted and promoted the programme of activities of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes and the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe crossing Italy through a series of events.

On 18th February 2022, the International Conference "Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe crossing Italy: a European heritage" took place in Venice and was organised by the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in cooperation with the Council of Europe Office in

Venice and the EPA on Cultural Routes. Moreover, the exhibition "Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in Italy: a European heritage" officially inaugurated on 24 November 2021 by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, H.E. Marija PEJČINOVIĆ BURIĆ, was further presented during a special side-event at the Conference of Ministers of Culture of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg on 1 April.

Budget of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme

On 7 November 2022, the Representatives of the EPA Statutory Committee unanimously decided to increase the EPA annual budget which now amounts to EUR 537 900.

The Ministry of Culture of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg decided a further increase of the European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR) annual budget which now amounts EUR 273 000.

Voluntary Contributions to the EPA Budget

The Ministry of Culture of France and the Federal Office of Culture of Switzerland made additional voluntary contributions to the budget of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe to further support the activities of the programme.

Country Mapping Document Reports

In 2022, the Country Mapping Document of Armenia was being prepared and the EPA Governing Board approved the request of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the preparation of a Country Mapping Document during 2023. The Country Mapping Document for Armenia will be published in 2023, and for Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2024.

EPA Participatory Status granted to FITE

The International Federation of Equestrian Tourism (FITE) was granted participatory status to the EPA. FITE's mission is to promote, regulate and organise international equestrian tourism for leisure and competition.

9th Training Academy on Cultural Routes (Fontainebleau, France)

From 31 May to 3 June, the 9th Training Academy on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe took place in Fontainebleau (France) as an official event within the framework of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union. It was organized by the Impressionisms Routes network in association with the European Institute of Cultural Routes and in cooperation with the District of Seine-et-Marne and the Ministry of Culture of France.

11th Annual Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes (Chania, Greece)

From 5th to 7th October, the 11th Annual Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe was held in Chania, Crete, Greece, and organised by the EPA and the European Institute of Cultural Routes in cooperation with the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports in its capacity as EPA Representative, the Hellenic Ministry of Tourism, the Greek National Tourism Organisation, the Region of Crete, the Municipality of Chania, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Chania, and the Historic Cafés Route. The Forum was held under the patronage of H.E. the President of the Hellenic Republic, Ms. Katerina SAKELLAROPOULOU.

The Forum was attended by over 400 participants, including the representatives of the 37 member States of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and representatives of the 48 certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, as well as representatives

of international organizations, Observers to the EPA such as the European Union, UNESCO, OEI and BSEC, academics from the Cultural Routes University Networks and tourism professionals.

2022-2023 Evaluation Cycle underway

The Secretariat of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme launched the 2022-2023 evaluation cycle during the spring and received all relevant documentation from certified Cultural Routes and candidate networks under evaluation.

- **Certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe under regular evaluation**

- Cluniac Sites in Europe
- Destination Napoleon
- European Route of Industrial Heritage
- European Route of Jewish Heritage
- European Routes of Emperor Charles V
- In the Footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson
- Iron Curtain Trail
- Le Corbusier Destinations: Architectural Promenades
- Liberation Route Europe
- Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route
- Routes of Reformation
- TRANSROMANICA - The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage
- Via Regia
- Viking Routes

- **Certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe under exceptional evaluation**

- European Route of Cistercian Abbeys
- Via Charlemagne

- **Candidates to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe certification**

- Transhumance Trails and Rural Roads
- European Network of Saint Michael's Sites and Ways
- Iter Romanum - Heritage & Cities
- Mary's Route
- Pyrenees Freedom Routes
- Romea Strata
- Saint Francis' Ways
- Singing Heritage Route

Online training seminar for potential Cultural Routes

In June, the Secretariat of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme hosted an online training seminar, targeted at Cultural Route networks interested in applying for certification as a "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe".

The seminar, which was conducted within the framework of the 2022-2023 certification cycle, provided comprehensive detail on the conceptual and practical prerequisites for acceding to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme. The seminar was attended by the representatives of 14 potential candidates to the certification to gain insight into the programme.

2022-2023 Update of the various Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe publications

The Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and the European Institute of Cultural Routes updated the [various publication of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme](#) :

- Publication on [Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe 2022-2023](#)
- General Leaflet presenting the structure and aims of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, [English](#) and [Greek](#) version.
- Publication on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe "[Booklet for travellers](#)"
- Publication on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe "[Booklet for member States](#)"
- Publication on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe "[Booklet for Cultural Routes](#)"

The EPA featured in a European Parliament Resolution (2022/2047(INI))

On 14 December, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the implementation of the New European Agenda for Culture and the EU Strategy for International Cultural Relations (2022/2047(INI)), that assesses the successes and challenges of EU cultural policies within and outside the EU and makes further recommendations for the future. Among its various considerations, the text acknowledges the Santiago de Compostela Declaration (1987) and the establishment of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (2010). It further highlights the great potential of Cultural Routes "to promote the values of the European Union, to strengthen its diverse identities and to help achieve its goals at global level, as well as to contribute to the solution of global challenges".

For a complete list of 2022 activities, please visit: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes/news-2022-3>

2023 MAJOR EVENTS: *Save the dates!* 2023 Calendar available [here](#)

Meeting of the Bureau of the EPA Governing Board, Luxembourg, 1-2 March

Meeting of the Governing Board of the EPA, Luxembourg, 10-11 May

10th Training Academy, "European Rock Art Trails", Périgueux-Montignac, France, 30 May – 2 June

12th Annual Advisory Forum, Łódź, Poland, 20-22 September

Meeting of the Statutory Committee of the EPA, Strasbourg, October (date TBC)