

Budget of the cultural routes programme

The cultural routes programme is funded from three roughly equal sources:

- ▶ once they have joined the Council of Europe Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA) member states pay annual contributions in addition to their contribution to the ordinary budget of the Council of Europe (currently €294 000);
- ▶ the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (Culture Ministry) awards an annual subsidy for the operational costs (premises and staff) of the European Institute of Cultural Routes located in Luxembourg, which implements the programme on behalf of the Council of Europe (€200 000 plus the equivalent of €100 000 in premises and servicing);
- ▶ the European Commission provides funding in the form of regular joint programmes between the two organisations, which allow for capacity-building and training activities to be carried out (currently the equivalent of €300 000 annually).

Member states of the Enlarged Partial Agreement

Currently, 23 Council of Europe member states are members of the programme. They are Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland.

The Council of Europe's cultural routes

The themes of the cultural routes range from pre-historic megalithic cultures in Europe (Megalithic Route, rock art route) to 20th-century architecture (ATRIUM), and from built heritage (Romanesque and Cluniac monuments, the Ceramic Route) to nature and landscape (Routes of the Olive tree, Iter Vitis). Several routes are based on religious heritage, often including pilgrimages (The Saint James Ways, the Via Francigena) or particular episodes in European history (Saint Martin, the Huguenots).

There are now 29 certified routes, crossing the whole of Europe and sometimes beyond. They all offer

information, visits and activities for tourists. The websites of the Council of Europe (coe.int/routes) and the EICR (www.culture-routes.net) give more information on the programme, with links to the individual websites which provide information on their different themes and locations, and how to visit them.

New routes are certified by the Council of Europe each year. Candidates for certification are evaluated for conformity with the criteria of Resolution CM/Res(2013)67 and certified if they fulfil the following criteria:

- ▶ a theme which illustrates Europe's culture and history;
- ▶ activities and exchanges for children and young people;
- ▶ sustainable tourism products which provide leisure, educational and cultural activities for visitors as well as contacts with local communities and traditions;
- ▶ contemporary cultural creativity which ensures that the theme becomes "living heritage";
- ▶ a formal network (association) which includes at least three countries;
- ▶ a scientific committee which carries out research on the theme in co-operation with European universities.



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www.coe.int

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

The Council of Europe's cultural routes programme

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The cultural routes programme was launched in 1987 with the Declaraton of Santiago de Compostela, launching the Way of Saint James as the first cultural route. The Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA) was established in 2010 and was confirmed on a permanent basis in December 2013. It is a voluntary agreement open for accession by non-member states and forms part of the Council of Europe's activities to foster sustainable democratic societies through cultural co-operation (visit www.coe.int/routes).

The European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR), located in Luxembourg and funded by the Grand Duchy, is responsible for implementing the Council of Europe's cultural routes programme. It assists new projects, advises and evaluates certified routes, co-ordinates an academic network and organises training and visibility activities (www.culture-routes.net).

29 cultural routes crossing Europe and beyond

The 29 cultural routes of the Council of Europe are all illustrations of the great diversity of tangible and intangible culture and heritage in Europe.

The cultural routes demonstrate, by means of a journey through space and time, how the heritage of the different countries and cultures of Europe contributes to a shared, living cultural heritage. The routes are grass-roots networks promoting the principles which underlie all the work of the Council of Europe: human rights, cultural democracy, cultural diversity, mutual understanding and exchanges across boundaries. They act as channels for intercultural dialogue and promote a better knowledge and understanding of European history. The cultural routes safeguard and enhance natural and cultural heritage as a means of improving the quality of life and as a source of social, economic and cultural development, giving pride of place to cultural tourism which ensures access to the sites along the routes and to reliable information about them.

STAKEHOLDERS OF THE CULTURAL ROUTES PROGRAMME*

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA) 23 member states, one observer	
Statutory Committee Representatives of foreign ministries of EPA member states in Strasbourg Current Chair: Michèle Eisenbarth (Luxembourg)	Governing Board (representatives of competent ministries of EPA member states) Current Chair: Elke Atzler (Austria) Bureau: 5 members elected from the Governing Board

Council of Europe Secretariat (EPA budget)	
EPA Executive Secretary (European Institute of Cultural Routes) Currently Penelope Denu	1 administrative assistant (Strasbourg)

European Institute of Cultural Routes (not-for-profit association) (Luxembourg Culture Ministry budget, except Council of Europe staff director) Chair of the Board: currently Colette Flesch	
Director (EPA Executive Secretary under the seat agreement)	4 members of staff

Council of Europe Cultural Routes (29 certified routes)	
Cultural Route Networks in at least three European countries Saint James Ways, Hansa, Heinrich Schickhardt, Vikings, Via Francigena, Vauban and Wenzel, Al-Andalus heritage, Mozart, Phoenicians, Pyrenean Iron Trail, Jewish Heritage, Saint Martin of Tours, Cluny, Olive Tree, Via Regia, Transromanica, Iter Vitis, Cistercian Abbeys, Significant cemeteries, Rock Art, Thermal Towns, Saint Olaf, Casadean sites, Ceramics, Huguenots, Megaliths, Atrium, Art Nouveau, via Habsburg.	

STATUTORY TEXTS AND AGREEMENTS

- Resolution CM/Res(2013)66 confirming the establishment of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA)
- Seat Agreement between Council of Europe Secretary General and Luxembourg Foreign Minister.

- Resolution CM/Res(2013)66 Confirming the establishment of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA)

- Resolution CM/Res(2013)66
- seat agreement
- statutes of the association
- managed by a board of representatives of Luxembourg, Council of Europe and EPA

- Resolution CM/Res(2013)67 revising the rules for the award of the "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" certification
- Transnational networks with a legal status

ROLE AND TASKS

The Statutory Committee of Permanent representatives (foreign ministries) meets annually in Strasbourg to decide on the budget and programme of activities. The Governing Board meets annually in Luxembourg (seat of the EPA) to decide on strategies, activities, new certifications and regular evaluations

Planning and supervision of the programme, organisation of statutory meetings, official representation, management of the EPA budget and joint programmes with the European Commission, relations with member states, co-operation with the EU and other organisations (UNWTO, UNESCO, OECD...), etc.

"Technical agency" for the implementation of the Council of Europe's programme Mission under its statute:

- assistance to routes and projects
- training
- evaluation
- research, documentation
- communication, seminars, events

Promoting Council of Europe values at grass-roots level:

- themes which illustrate Europe's culture and history
- activities and exchanges for children and young people
- sustainable tourism products which provide leisure, educational and cultural activities for visitors and contacts with local communities and traditions
- contemporary cultural creativity which ensures "living heritage"
- a formal network (association) which includes at least three countries

* All names are those of responsible officials at the time of publication (March 2015).