

22 September 2022

**EPA GOVERNING BOARD: INFORMAL MEETING ON THE OCCASION OF THE 11TH CULTURAL
ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE ANNUAL ADVISORY FORUM 2022**

Certification Cycle 2022-2023

Wednesday 5th October (10:00 – 12:30 EEST) - Minoa Palace Hotel, Chania (Greece)

I. BACKGROUND

Founded in 1949, the Council of Europe is not only the oldest European international organisation but also the “most European” with its 46 member States covering the whole European continent. From its origin, the Council of Europe has had the purpose to achieve a greater unity between its members and to protect and promote their fundamental values, namely, human rights, democracy and rule of law.

One of the most innovative initiatives encouraging this noble vision was to launch in 1987 the **Cultural Routes Programme**, to enhance the richness and the diversity of the European cultures and countries and to render shared European cultural identities into a tangible reality, beyond political and ideological divergences, which divided the European continent for centuries.

Today, with 48 routes criss-crossing Europe and gathering more than 3,000 members, the Cultural Routes Programme tells the story of European heritage through journeys across space and time. Cultural Routes are powerful tools to promote and preserve Europeans’ shared and diverse cultural identities. The routes serve as channels for intercultural dialogue and provide a better understanding of the history of Europe through cross-border exchanges of people, ideas, and cultures. They are a model for grassroots cultural cooperation, providing important lessons about identity and citizenship by means of participative experience of culture.

The Cultural Routes model has evolved over more than three decades into an exemplary system for sustainable transnational co-operation, and it has proven to be a successful initiative for socio-economic development, cultural heritage promotion and intergenerational communication.

In 2010, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe established an **Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA)** in order to enable closer cooperation between States particularly interested in the development of the Cultural Routes. From its original 14 founding members, the EPA has grown steadily, counting today 37 Member States and Observers such as the European Commission, UNWTO, UNESCO and OECD.

Upon the entry into force of the EPA, an agreement establishing its seat at the European Institute of Cultural Routes was signed between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg and the Council of Europe.

The EPA on Cultural Routes follows the Council of Europe’s policy guidelines, decides the programme strategy and awards the “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” certification. It is open to member and non-member States of the Council of Europe aiming at providing political support for national, regional and local initiatives to promote culture and tourism.

The **European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR)** was set up in 1998 as part of a political agreement between the Council of Europe and the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg (Ministry of Culture, Higher Education and Research). The EICR is the programme’s headquarters and technical agency. It assists the certified Cultural Routes, provides advice to new projects applying for certification, coordinates a universities network and houses the extensive information and documentary resources of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme.

II. THE "CULTURAL ROUTE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE" CERTIFICATION

According to **Resolution CM/Res(2013)67¹ revising the rules for the award of the "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" certification**, the certification "Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe" may be granted to projects which deal with a theme that complies with the eligibility criteria in part I, involve priority actions as indicated in part II and are presented by a single network meeting the criteria in part III:

i. List of eligibility criteria for themes

Themes must satisfy all of the following criteria:

1. The theme must be representative of European values and common to at least three countries of Europe;
2. The theme must be researched and developed by groups of multidisciplinary experts from different regions of Europe so as to ensure that the activities and projects which illustrate it are based on consensus;
3. The theme must be illustrative of European memory, history and heritage and contribute to an interpretation of the diversity of present-day Europe;
4. The theme must lend itself to cultural and educational exchanges for young people and hence be in line with the Council of Europe's ideas and concerns in these fields;
5. The theme must permit the development of initiatives and exemplary and innovative projects in the field of cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development;
6. The theme must lend itself to the development of tourist products in partnership with tourist agencies and operators aimed at different publics, including school groups.

ii. List of priority fields of action

The projects must pertain to the following priority fields of action, while fulfilling the criteria enumerated for each field of action.

1. Co-operation in research and development
2. Enhancement of memory, history and European heritage
3. Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans
4. Contemporary cultural and artistic practice
5. Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development

iii. List of criteria for networks

Project initiators shall form multidisciplinary networks located in several Council of Europe member States. Such networks must:

- Present a conceptual framework based on research carried out into the theme chosen and accepted by the different network partners;
- Involve Council of Europe Member States through all or part of their project(s), without excluding activities of a bilateral nature;
- Plan to involve as large a number as possible of States Parties to the European Cultural Convention (ETS No. 18) as well as, where appropriate, other States;
- Ensure that the projects proposed are financially and organisationally viable;
- Have a legal status, either in the form of an association or a federation of associations;
- Operate democratically

¹ Full text of the Resolution CM/Res(2013)67 in annex.

III. CERTIFICATION CYCLE 2022-2023

The 2022-2023 Certification Cycle focuses on the regular evaluation of fourteen certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, the exceptional evaluation of two certified Cultural Routes and the evaluation of eight candidate routes applying for the certification "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe".

CERTIFIED CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE UNDER REGULAR EVALUATION

1. *Cluniac Sites in Europe*
2. *Destination Napoleon*
3. *European Route of Industrial Heritage*
4. *European Route of Jewish Heritage*
5. *European Routes of Emperor Charles V*
6. *In the Footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson*
7. *Iron Curtain Trail*
8. *Le Corbusier Destinations: Architectural Promenades*
9. *Liberation Route Europe*
10. *Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route*
11. *Routes of Reformation*
12. *TRANSROMANICA - The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage*
13. *Via Regia*
14. *Viking Routes*

CERTIFIED CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE UNDER EXCEPTIONAL EVALUATION

1. *European Route of Cistercian Abbeys*
2. *Via Charlemagne*

CANDIDATES TO THE "CULTURAL ROUTE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE" CERTIFICATION

1. *European Network of Saint Michael's Sites and Ways*
2. *Iter Romanum - Heritage & Cities*
3. *Mary's Route*
4. *Pyrenees Freedom Routes*
5. *Romea Strata*
6. *Saint Francis' Ways*
7. *Singing Heritage Route*
8. *Transhumance Trails and Rural Roads*

IV. CANDIDATES TO THE CERTIFICATION SHORT DESCRIPTION

European Network of Saint Michael's Sites and Ways

The European Network of Saint Michael's Sites and Ways brings together sanctuaries, sites, and places of cult dedicated to Saint Michael. The ways converging towards or linking these sites have been laid out on ancient pilgrimage routes or on ancient trade routes. They offer walkers and cyclists a soft mobility facilitating the discovery of heritage, history and the respect of the environment.

The eastern cult of Saint Michael appeared in Italy around the year 490 on the Gargano promontory. Various sanctuaries were founded from the 6th to the 9th century throughout Europe (in Italy, France, Ireland, Spain and Germany), including the foundation of Mont-Saint-Michel in the 8th century. Therefore, many sites dedicated to Saint Michael are to be found throughout Europe. Their history, their architecture, their painted or sculpted decors attract visitors and pilgrims. Several of them have been inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List (such as Monte Sant'Angelo, Mont-Saint-Michel and Skellig Michael).

The network currently involves members in France, Spain and Italy.

Iter Romanum - Heritage & Cities

The Roman Empire designed and built roads throughout its entire territory, creating a network of more than 300,000 kilometres of roadways. This immense network connected its capital, Rome, to the rest of its territories, from large cities to small towns and villages in the outlying areas. The Roman Road network freed vast areas of the empire from isolation and enabled economic, cultural and social exchange between very different societies, while also bringing them cohesion elements. Many European towns and cities today have existed since Roman times and many others were founded and flourished at the road intersections connecting the former.

Through the Roman road network, Iter Romanum links unique monumental sites from the Roman past, considered peripheral or secondary settlements in Roman times. These sites were founded, grew and evolved thanks to them branching off from the Roman road network, a connection that allowed them to follow the cultural, architectural and social trends emanating from Rome, as well as from the large cities of the time. Iter Romanum enhances an exceptional archaeological legacy: temples, defensive walls, villas, aqueducts, military camps, public baths, funerary steles, bridges and much more.

The network currently involves members in Belgium, France, Italy, Portugal, Serbia and Spain.

Mary's Route

The veneration of Mary, mother of Jesus, dates back to the beginning of Christianity. In particular in Central Europe, her veneration is manifested in buildings, statues, paintings, music, performing arts and in living traditions. In this region, more than 150 living shrines incarnate the living tradition of Mary's veneration with countless holy wells, statues and regional sacred memories. These shrines are visited by 6-7 million pilgrims every year.

Mary's Route integrates these shrines into a network of centres of pilgrimages and of veneration of Mary in ten countries, following a North-South and an East-West axes, with an extension of more than 6000 km long. Mary's Route can be travelled by foot, bike, horse and even water, along the Danube River, while discovering the natural and cultural treasures and traditions of the countries crossed.

The network currently involves members in Austria, Czech Republic, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia and the Czech Republic.

Pyrenees Freedom Routes

During the Second World War, from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean, the Pyrenees were crossed by more than 30,000 escapees. It is in the central part of the Pyrenees (Ariège, Haute-Garonne and Hautes-Pyrénées) that the most important crossing routes are located, called "Pyrenees Freedom Routes". They constitute a close link between three nations: France, Spain and the United Kingdom, and bear witness to the crossing of the Pyrenees by hundreds of resistance fighters, aviators, Jews and many others, fleeing the Nazi regime.

The Pyrenees Freedom Routes are an opportunity to discover a heritage, exceptional landscapes and traditions and pay tribute to these heroes. Through the Pyrenean foothills and up to the highest peaks, the diversity of our territories and the richness of their heritage are offered to all (decorated caves, Roman remains, churches and medieval villages, calvaries, castles...), in a majestic atmosphere.

The network currently involves members in France, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Romea Strata

Romea Strata is an ancient pilgrimage route travelled by pilgrims from Central and Eastern Europe on their way to Rome: from the Baltic Sea, they crossed Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic and

Austria and entered the north-east of Italy through the town of Tarvisio. This 4.000 km journey represents a point of union between the East and the West, connecting local and regional pilgrim ways in 7 countries.

Romea Strata stands out due to the variety of elements and experiences that have been stratified along this route throughout history. It was used for multiple purposes, including the trade of amber, salt, iron and silk. This led to the development of artistic and architectural assets along the route, including hospitality establishments, churches and museums. The route was also frequented by enlightened minds who left their mark in the field of science, such as Copernicus, Kepler and Galileo Galilei; and traversed by fundamental figures who spread Christianity, Judaism and Protestantism.

The network currently involves members in Austria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.

Saint Francis' Ways

Saint Francis' Ways propose a series of thematic itineraries and territorial routes that allow citizens to get in contact with the precious legacy of Saint Francis. The network of pilgrimage routes connects Assisi with the main Franciscan places and the great destinations of medieval spirituality: Santiago, Rome and Jerusalem.

Along the Saint Francis' Ways, visitors and travellers can discover art places, UNESCO heritage sites, unique examples of architecture, painting and literature, botany and pharmacy, as well as music. Walking along the Way of Saint Francis constitutes an authentic spiritual path. The figure of Saint Francis embodies the value of dialogue, peace, respect for the other, and the multiculturalism from medieval times up to the present day.

The network currently involves members in Cyprus, Croatia, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Malta, Palestine, Poland, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Slovakia, Hungary and the USA.

Singing Heritage Route

Singing traditions in Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have been and still are extraordinarily important. They have preserved culture and language, kept national and regional cultures alive, and have been the main channel for cultures to share values and concepts before writing technology.

Today the Singing Heritage Route presents these singing traditions linked to museums, villages, festivals and events, as well as beautiful landscapes and nature, war memorials, churches and religious monuments. It enhances singing traditions such as the "runosong" tradition of Finland, Ingria, Karelia and Estonia, "leelo" singing tradition in South-East Estonia, multipart singing tradition called singing with "pusbolss" in Eastern Latvia, "sutartinés" in Lithuania as well as Baltic song and dance celebrations.

The network currently involves members in Estonia, Finland, Latvia and Lithuania.

Transhumance Trails and Rural Roads

Transhumant pastoralism has contributed to shape the culture of Europe. It has originated a rich and diverse tangible and intangible heritage and a peculiar cultural landscape of pastures and meadows produced for millennia by the constant interaction between man and nature. It has also left a tangible legacy, such as artifacts and settlement, as well as an intangible one in the form of a set of beliefs, religious symbols, narratives and cultural practices. Ancient gods and Christian saints inspired herders, thus countless sanctuaries, temples and chapels have been constructed to honour them. Transhumance is also at the origin of ancient myths, unique gastronomy and traditional craftsmanship.

Today, the Transhumance Trails and Rural Roads Route brings together a network of drove roads and tracks of transhumance spanning across European and extra European areas, such as Latin America, North Africa and the Middle East. A constellation of archaeological sites, small villages, vast horizons and gorgeous scenarios invites travellers to discover the transhumance legacy.

The network currently involves members in France, Italy, Mexico, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.

V. ONLINE TRAINING SEMINAR FOR NETWORKS INTERESTED IN THE "CULTURAL ROUTE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE" CERTIFICATION

On 24th June, the Secretariat of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme held an online training seminar for networks interested in applying for the certification "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" in the framework of the 2022-2023 certification cycle.

The online training seminar provided an exhaustive overview of the main characteristics of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme, serving as an essential reference for representatives of cultural routes willing to submit an application for certification. It addressed aspects concerning the Cultural Routes certification cycle, certification criteria, procedure, and requirements, to facilitate the preparation of the applications. It also served as an opportunity for the networks to clarify any doubts regarding the submission of their evaluation files.

The seminar was attended by representatives of 14 Networks having formally expressed their interest in submitting their application for certification in the framework of the 2022-2023 Certification Cycle.

Potential candidates - 2022-2023 Certification Cycle:

1. European Network of Saint Michael's Sites and Ways
2. Iter Romanum - Heritage & Cities
3. Itinerarium Marini Sanuti
4. Le Vie di Leonardo da Vinci
5. Mary's Route
6. Nikola Tesla Network
7. Nikolaosroute– La Via Nicolaiana. European Route Nicholas of Myra
8. Origins of Europe
9. Pyrenees Freedom Routes
10. Romea Strata
11. Saint Francis' Ways
12. Silk Routes
13. Singing Heritage Route
14. Transhumance Trails and Rural Roads

Following the training seminar, 6 networks informed the Secretariat about their intention to postpone the submission of their applications until next year.

VI. EVALUATION PROCEDURE

i. Evaluation of networks responsible for projects having received the "Council of Europe Cultural Route" certification

The Executive Secretary of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA), in cooperation with the European Institute of Cultural Routes, requests networks responsible for projects which have received the "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" certification to submit every three years a report on their organisation, functioning and activities in compliance with the requirements of Resolution CM/Res(2013)67.

The reports submitted shall be assessed by the EPA Secretariat with the assistance of the EICR, who may decide to request the opinion of experts chosen in accordance with the procedure laid out in the Rules of Procedure.

Selected experts will draft an evaluation report on the basis of the documentary analysis and a fact-finding visit conducted along the Cultural Route. The report shall include a follow-up table containing the recommendations issued during the previous evaluation cycle as well as those issued during the current

evaluation. The expert shall indicate if the route has addressed the recommendation since the last evaluation.

The Secretariat prepares recommendations regarding the evaluation of networks for examination by the Bureau, which in turn makes a recommendation to the Governing Board. If the Governing Board finds compliance with Resolution CM/Res(2013)67 unsatisfactory, it issues a recommendation to the route in order to ensure this compliance.

ii. Evaluation of Candidates to the "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" certification

Applications for the certification "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" are submitted to the Secretariat of the EPA. These shall be presented in printed and digital format, and reply to a set of questions developed by the EPA Secretariat, based on the criteria outlined in Resolution CM Res(2013)67 on the rules for the award of the "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" certification.

According to Resolution CM/Res(2013)67 and EPA Governing Board Rules of Procedures, the files of all new candidates must be examined by an independent expert.

Experts are asked to complete a full evaluation report based on the criteria established by CM Resolution (2013)67 and also to carry out a fact-finding field visit(s) in one or more of the sites members of the networks part of the Cultural Route under evaluation or of the candidate to the "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" certification.

Each application will be examined by one or more independent experts chosen by the EPA Executive Secretary among the experts identified following the Rules of Procedure of the EPA Governing Board.

On the basis of the examination conducted by these experts, the EPA Secretariat, with the assistance of the EICR, draws up an evaluation report with a recommendation regarding the award of the certification.

The report assesses whether the application fulfils the criteria laid down in CM/Res(2013)67 and provides a recommendation as to the position the Board may take with regard to the application. The Bureau in turn makes a recommendation to the Governing Board at least two weeks before the meeting of the Board.

The Governing Board formulates a decision in the light of the evaluation and the recommendation of the Bureau.

iii. Exceptional evaluation of networks responsible for projects having received the "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" certification

Upon decision of the Governing Board, certified Cultural Routes undergoing exceptional evaluation are requested to submit a report on their organisation, functioning and activities in compliance with the requirements of the Committee of Ministers Resolution CM/Res(2013)67. An independent expert will be appointed for a desk review of the submitted documentation and a field visit along the route. He/she will then prepare an evaluation report on the compliance of the route with the certification criteria.

During the meeting of the EPA Governing Board in April, the recommendations of the Bureau concerning the renewal or withdrawal of the certification of Cultural Routes undergoing exceptional evaluation will be examined.

If the Governing Board finds the performance of the network unsatisfactory, it may decide to withdraw the certification.

In case the representative of the relevant intergovernmental committee is of the opinion that the certification should not be withdrawn, a report will be submitted to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe which will take the final decision on the withdrawal of the "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" certification.

VII. BUREAU AND GOVERNING BOARD MEETINGS

The EPA Executive Secretary will invite the independent experts to be available by videoconference during both **Bureau meeting (February 2023)** and the **Governing Board meeting (May 2023)**, should EPA representatives wish to clarify any points raised by the experts.

During the meeting, Bureau members will have the opportunity to form an opinion on the conformity of the routes concerned with the criteria for certification and make recommendations to be transmitted to the Governing Board in advance of its annual meeting to take place in Luxembourg in May 2023.

During the meeting of the EPA Governing Board, the recommendations of the Bureau concerning all routes will be examined. In conformity with the practice established in 2016, managers of the Cultural Routes under evaluation and new candidates for certification will be invited to make a presentation of their routes at the Governing Board meeting and answer any questions EPA representatives may have.

Decisions on the conformity of certified Cultural Routes under regular evaluation and on the certification of new routes will be taken by the EPA member States at the Governing Board meeting.

VIII. EVALUATION CYCLE TIMELINE

2022

March:

Notification letter sent by the Executive Secretary of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA) to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe under regular evaluation, thus launching the certification cycle.

Call for Applications for certification as « Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe » posted on the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA) website.

31st July:

Deadline for submitting the complete certification form through the Council of Europe website and by post to the Enlarged Partial Agreement (EPA) on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe at its headquarters at the European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR).

August:

Analysis of the documentation submitted on 31st July. Selection of the independent experts contracted to prepare the evaluation reports by the EPA Secretariat.

September- November:

Independent expert review and contact made with Cultural Route management in order to verify the documentation submitted and prepare the evaluation report.

Field visit along the route by the independent expert and meeting with the Cultural Route management. Preparation of evaluation report by the independent expert.

9th December:

Deadline for submission of the evaluation report by the independent expert to the Secretariat.

December -January:

Examination of the evaluation report by the Secretariat and drafting of the recommendations to the Bureau of the EPA Governing Board.

2023

February:

Examination of the evaluation report by the Bureau of the EPA, experts auditioned where necessary, and the drafting of recommendations to the EPA Governing Board by the Bureau of the EPA.

March:

Sending of expert reports to certified and candidate routes along with any requests for further information from the Bureau. Invitation to present the Cultural Route during the EPA Governing Board April meeting.

May:

Governing board meeting.

Examination of the evaluation report and of the recommendations made by the EPA Bureau to the EPA Governing Board.

Audition of certified Cultural Routes under regular evaluation and candidate routes applying for certification. Decision concerning the renewal / awarding of certification.

June:

Notification letter sent by the EPA Secretariat to the auditioned Cultural Routes concerning the renewal of the certification of their network as "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe".

Notification letter sent by the EPA Secretariat to the auditioned candidates concerning the results of their network's application for certification as a "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe".

APPENDIX 1 – RESOLUTION CM(2013)67

Resolution [CM/Res\(2013\)67](#) revising the rules for the award of the "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" certification

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 18 December 2013
at the 1187bis meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members and that this aim may be pursued through joint action in the cultural field;

Considering that the main aims of European cultural co-operation are to promote the European identity in its unity and its diversity; to preserve the diversity of Europe's cultures; to encourage intercultural dialogue and to facilitate conflict prevention and reconciliation;

Considering that highlighting the influences, exchanges and developments which have formed the European identity can facilitate awareness of a European citizenship based on the sharing of common values;

Considering that it is essential for younger generations to acquire this awareness of a European identity and citizenship and the common values on which they are based;

Considering that in order to uphold these common values and make them more tangible, it is necessary to promote an understanding of Europe's history on the basis of its physical, intangible and natural heritage, so as to bring out the links which unite its various cultures and regions;

Noting that the identification of European values and a common European cultural heritage may be achieved via cultural routes tracing the history of peoples, migrations, and the spread of the major European currents of civilisation in the fields of philosophy, religion, culture, the arts, science, technology and trade;

Aware that such routes lend themselves to long-term European co-operation programmes in the fields of research, heritage enhancement, culture and the arts, cultural and educational youth exchanges, cultural tourism in Europe and sustainable cultural development;

Considering that such co-operation mobilises and brings together a large number of individuals, organisations, institutions and structures in Europe, and thereby contributes to the process of European construction;

Considering that in order to provide an intellectual and technical support to this co-operation, which requires considerable human and financial resources, a formal operational framework should be established enabling the reaffirmation of fundamental values, the qualitative and quantitative assessment of implementation, training of actors and a coherent communication;

Considering that such a framework enables common objectives to be pursued and guarantees the quality of the initiatives undertaken;

Considering Resolution [CM/Res\(2013\)66](#) confirming the establishment of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (hereafter "EPA");

Having regard to the objectives and activities of the EPA,

Adopts this resolution which annuls and replaces Resolution [CM/Res\(2010\)52](#) of 8 December 2010 on the rules for the award of the "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" certification;

Adopts the rules for the award of the "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" certification which are appended to this resolution.

Appendix to Resolution [CM/Res\(2013\)67](#)

Rules

The certification "Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe" may be granted to projects which deal with a theme that complies with the eligibility criteria in part I below, involve priority actions as indicated in part II and are presented by a single network meeting the criteria in part III.

I. List of eligibility criteria for themes

Themes must satisfy all of the following criteria:

1. *the theme must be representative of European values and common to at least three countries of Europe;*
2. *the theme must be researched and developed by groups of multidisciplinary experts from different regions of Europe so as to ensure that the activities and projects which illustrate it are based on consensus;*
3. *the theme must be illustrative of European memory, history and heritage and contribute to an interpretation of the diversity of present-day Europe;*
4. *the theme must lend itself to cultural and educational exchanges for young people and hence be in line with the Council of Europe's ideas and concerns in these fields;*
5. *the theme must permit the development of initiatives and exemplary and innovative projects in the field of cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development;*
6. *the theme must lend itself to the development of tourist products in partnership with tourist agencies and operators aimed at different publics, including school groups.*

II. List of priority fields of action

The projects must pertain to the following priority fields of action, while fulfilling the criteria enumerated below for each field of action:

1. *Co-operation in research and development*

In this field of action, the projects must:

- *play a unifying role around major European themes, enabling dispersed knowledge to be brought together;*
 - *show how these themes are representative of European values shared by several European cultures;*
 - *illustrate the development of these values and the variety of forms they may take in Europe;*
 - *lend themselves to research and interdisciplinary analysis on both a theoretical and a practical level.*
2. *Enhancement of memory, history and European heritage*

In this field of action, the projects must:

- *enhance physical and intangible heritages, explain their historical significance and highlight their similarities in the different regions of Europe;*
- *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;*
- *identify and enhance European heritage sites and areas other than the monuments and sites generally exploited by tourism, in particular in rural areas, but also in industrial areas in the process of economic restructuring;*
- *take account of the physical and intangible heritage of ethnic or social minorities in Europe;*
- *contribute through appropriate training, to raising awareness among decision makers, practitioners and the general public of the complex concept of heritage, the necessity to protect, interpret and communicate it as a means for sustainable development, and the challenges and opportunities it represents for the future of Europe.*

3. Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans

In this field of action, the projects must:

- *include the organisation of activities with groups of young people in order to promote in-depth exchanges aimed at developing the concept of European citizenship, enriched by its diversity;*
- *place the emphasis on personal and real experiences through the use of places and contacts;*
- *encourage decompartmentalisation by organising exchanges of young people from different social backgrounds and regions of Europe;*
- *constitute pilot schemes with a limited number of participating countries and be provided with sufficient resources for meaningful assessment in order to generate prototypes that can serve as reference models;*
- *give rise to co-operation activities which involve educational institutions at various levels.*

4. Contemporary cultural and artistic practice

In this field of action, the projects must:

- *give rise to debate and exchange, in a multidisciplinary and intercultural perspective, between the various cultural and artistic expressions and sensibilities of the different countries of Europe;*
- *encourage activities and artistic projects which explore the links between heritage and contemporary culture;*
- *highlight, in contemporary cultural and artistic practice, the most innovative practices in terms of creativity, and link them with the history of skills development, whether they belong to the field of the visual arts, the performing arts, creative crafts, architecture, music, literature or any other form of cultural expression;*
- *give rise to networks and activities which break down the barriers between professionals and non-professionals, particularly as regards instruction for young Europeans in the relevant fields.*

5. Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development

In this field of action, the projects must:

- *take account of local, regional, national and European identities;*
- *actively involve print and broadcast media and make full use of the potential of electronic media in order to raise awareness of the cultural objectives of the projects;*
- *promote dialogue between urban and rural cultures, between regions in the south, north, east and west of Europe, and between developed and disadvantaged regions;*
- *promote dialogue and understanding between majority and minority, native and immigrant cultures;*
- *open up possibilities for co-operation between Europe and other continents through the special affinities between certain regions;*
- *concern themselves, in the field of cultural tourism, with raising public awareness, drawing decision makers' attention to the necessity of protecting heritage as part of sustainable development of the territory and seek to diversify both supply and demand, with a view to fostering the development of quality tourism with a European dimension;*
- *seek partnerships with public and private organisations active in the field of tourism in order to develop tourist products and tools targeting all potential publics.*

III. List of criteria for networks

Project initiators shall form multidisciplinary networks located in several Council of Europe member States. Such networks must:

- *present a conceptual framework based on research carried out into the theme chosen and accepted by the different network partners;*
- *involve several Council of Europe member States through all or part of their project(s), without excluding activities of a bilateral nature;*
- *plan to involve as large a number as possible of States Parties to the European Cultural Convention (ETS No. 18) as well as, where appropriate, other States;*
- *ensure that the projects proposed are financially and organisationally viable;*
- *have a legal status, either in the form of an association or a federation of associations;*
- *operate democratically.*

In support of the presentation of their projects, networks must:

- *offer a comprehensive programme and specify its objectives, methods, partners, participating countries (current and envisaged) and the overall development of the programme in the medium and long term;*
- *demonstrate how their activities relate to the five priority fields of action in Part II of the Appendix to Resolution [CM/Res\(2013\)67](#) (research and development, enhancement of memory, history and heritage, cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans, contemporary cultural and artistic practice, cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development);*
- *identify, in the various member countries of the Council of Europe, the main initiators, participants and other potential partners likely to form a network; specify, where appropriate, at international level, other partner organisations;*

- *specify the regions concerned by the project;*
- *provide details of their financing and operational plan;*
- *append the basic text(s) relating to their legal status;*
- *define and implement indicators aimed to measure the impact of the activities of cultural routes.*

IV. Certification

1. The certification "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" is awarded by the Governing Board of the EPA in consultation with the relevant intergovernmental committee. It can, if necessary, seek advice from one or more expert consultants. The Governing Board may consult, if considered necessary, other pertinent committees or bodies of the Council of Europe.

In case of a negative opinion by the intergovernmental committee concerned, the agreement of the Committee of Ministers will be required for the award of the certification.

Projects and themes which help to achieve the Council of Europe political priority objectives are particularly encouraged.

2. Following the award of the certification, the entire mention "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" and the logo of the Council of Europe must be placed on all communication material, including press releases.

A manual with recommendations (or vade mecum) will be provided to networks.

Whenever possible, the certification accompanied by the Council of Europe logo must appear on road signs and boards indicating the cultural route.

3. Evaluation of networks responsible for projects having received the certification "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe".

In addition to an annual programme of activities and an annual report submitted to the Secretariat, networks must submit every three years a report enabling the Governing Board of the EPA to evaluate their activities in order to ascertain whether they continue to satisfy the criteria in parts I, II, III and IV.2 above.

If the Governing Board of the EPA finds the compliance with parts I, II, III and IV.2 above unsatisfactory it will issue a recommendation in order to ensure this compliance. If the recommendation is not followed within a year, the Governing Board of the EPA may decide on the withdrawal of the certification after consultation of the relevant intergovernmental committee.

In case the intergovernmental committee concerned is of the opinion that the certification should not be withdrawn, the agreement of the Committee of Ministers will be required for the withdrawal of the certification.

The Governing Board of the EPA decides on the practical modalities of application of this resolution. It adopts rules of procedure to this effect.