



Louis Cardahi
Foundation

From Roots to Routes Workshop Routes of the Olive Tree – Lebanon

May 19, 2023

On behalf of his excellency, Minister of Tourism Eng. Walid Nassar and in my position as his advisor for international relations representing Lebanon to the EPA into the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. LAU-Louis Cardahi Foundation is honored to welcome our valuable friend guest of honor Mrs. Marinella Katsilieri, Head of Planning & Development Department of the Cultural Foundation "The Routes of the Olive Tree", we thank our partners from Bchaaleh trails association for organizing this event and share our sincere and warm appreciation for our Lebanese partners and friends for their participation, representing Lebanon Routes of the Olive Tree to include but not limited to Douroub al Zaytoun throughout Lebanon: Bchaaleh trails associations, BTA & Olive Routes, Kouraniyet Olive's paths and Darb el Tajalleh and a warm welcome and congratulations for Mrs Rose Bchara for her United Nations international award winning for the olive and olive oil of Deirmimass .

Yes indeed, you are welcome to LAU-Louis Cardahi Foundation.

Together we shall develop and sustain our collaboration with The Enlarged Partial Agreement (EPA), into the European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR), of the Council of Europe.

As of this year, Lebanon is among the 38 member States of the Enlarged Partial Agreement participating to the 48 Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA). Lebanon is the very first euro Mediterranean country in its position as a member state in the EPA Crossing 4 distinguished cultural routes. Phoenicians Route, Legado Andalucia, Iter Vitis Wine Route and the Route of the Olive Tree.

Lebanon is also very active in academic and scientific research in the field of cultural heritage and sustainable cultural tourism through the participation of the Lebanese American University LAU Louis Cardahi Foundation among the 22 Universities across Europe and the Mediterranean region.

- I am proud to be entrusted by his Excellency, Minister Nassar and LAU president Dr. Michel Mawad into this mission and I seek to sustain Lebanon's cultural position into the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.
- As an integral part of this work shop , in my capacity as representative of Lebanon to the EPA, with your support and the support of the ministries of tourism , agriculture, industry and the Chamber of Commerce Industry and Agriculture (CCIAB-ML)
- we shall seek to establish a strong hold socioeconomic association of SME's in line with the successful establishment of Darmmess initiative by Mrs. Rose Bechara.