the Council of Europe’s cultural routes - a model for intercultural dialogue and sustainable social and economic development
Santiago de Compostela – where it all began 27 years ago...

25 anniversary of the Santiago Declaration, 23 October 2012
....or from Santiago to Baku!

• On 23 October 1987, the Council of Europe’s Committee of Ministers launched the cultural routes programme as a means of illustrating the European ideals and values and communicating them through the lessons of the past: “cultural identity [...] is made possible by the existence of a European space bearing a collective memory and criss-crossed by roads and paths which overcome distances, frontiers and language barriers.”

• On 31 October 2014, The partners of the Council of Europe’s 29 certified cultural routes, associations, communities, governments, academics, local and regional authorities, approved the Baku Declaration, a non-legal text adopted annually at the Cultural Routes Advisory Forums.

• The theme of the 2014 Forum was « Cultural routes for intercultural dialogue and social stability »
Where it all began 27 years ago

Celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Declaration, 23 October 2012

29 cultural routes crossing the whole of Europe
What is a Council of Europe cultural route?

(Resolution CM/Res(2013)66):
A cultural route is “a cultural, educational heritage and tourism co-operation project aiming at developing and promoting an itinerary or a series of itineraries based on a theme with transnational importance and significance for the understanding and respect of common European values.”
Types of cultural route differ:

Linear routes: Saint James of Compostela

Networks: Significant European cemeteries
all of the routes serve to communicate the values of the council of europe to local populations
they are grass-roots vectors of cultural cooperation …
and help to promote intercultural dialogue, including in its religious dimension, wherever they are
The role of culture and heritage as seen by the Council of Europe

- **European Cultural Convention** (1954)
- **The European Convention on the protection of the Architectural heritage** (Granada, 1985)
- **European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revised)** (Valetta, 1995)
- **European Landscape Convention** (Florence, 2000)
- **Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society** (Faro, 2005)
The Council of Europe Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA)

- adopted by 13 member states in December 2010 for a 3-year trial period
- now 23 member states and one observer
- confirmed on 18 December 2013 on a permanent basis by the Committee of Ministers CM/Res(2013)66
The European Institute of Cultural Routes in Luxembourg

- technical agency of the programme
- funded by Luxembourg (Culture Ministry)
- directed by the EPA Executive Secretary

Main tasks:
- assist cultural routes
  - training
  - capacity-building
  - documentary resources and research coordination
- evaluate conformity with Resolution (2013)67
- assess and advise new projects
  - in 2014, 13 evaluations of certified routes and new projects
  - 30 projects receive advice and assistance
Tools – the websites

The Council of Europe Institutional website
Tools – the websites
Applying the « Saint James » principle

The principle was taken from the Santiago Declaration and applied to other relevant thematic cultural heritage networks:

- Illustrating how today’s diverse European identities are the result of intermingling and exchanging between peoples of culture, traditions, skills
- Showing citizens the value of dialogue, of meeting and exchanging peacefully
- Bringing people together in a sharing, holistic experience
- Preserving and fostering our wonder, admiration and consequently respect for our environment

• « European » theme
• At least three countries
• A scientific committee
• A legal status
• Exchanges for young people
• Contemporary artistic creation
• « tourism products »
Activities:
The Annual Advisory Forum

Colmar, 2012, invited by France
The Advisory Forum 2013

Innsbruck, invited by Austria during its Chairmanship of the Council of Europe
The Advisory Forum 2014

Baku, invited by Azerbaijan during its chairmanship of the Council of Europe
Activities - summer seminars

June 2013,
Castelveltrano,
Sicily
Latest developments - The Baku Declaration
31 October 2014

• “The public of the cultural routes is becoming increasingly aware of the values of solidarity and citizenship, gaining at the same time a stronger conscience of environmental issues and a growing interest in sustainable development and respect for the diversity and wealth of identities and cultures;

• These changes are the signs of a progressive transformation from consumerist tourism towards participative tourism, where the quality and diversity of European landscapes constitute a common resource and a criterion (as stated by the European Landscape Convention in its preamble) and respect for cultures and destinations makes lesser-known sites more attractive than some of the more visited places;”
Other sub-themes of the Baku Declaration

• *Council of Europe cultural routes are drivers for sustainable social and economic development*

• *Cultural routes are educational tools for understanding past conflicts, easing tensions and promoting peaceful cohabitation*

• *Cultural routes are guardians of Europe’s memory and living history*
Thank you!