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Council of Europe: Three New and Eight Recertified Cultural Routes

The Pyrenean Freedom Routes, the Romea Strata and the Saint Francis Ways were granted the 2025 Cultural Route of the Council of Europe. Eight existing certifications renewed and two were withdrawn.

Luxembourg, 6-7 May 2025 - In its annual meeting for 2024-2025, the [Governing Board of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on the Cultural Routes of Europe](#) granted three new certifications, growing the [total of Cultural Routes awards to 49](#).

The [Pyrenean Freedom Routes](#) include 12 routes across ten countries: Andorra, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain, United Kingdom. They symbolise “resistance, solidarity and courage” for the 55,000 women and men crossing the Pyrenees during World War II.

The [Romea Strata](#) is a network of routes in seven countries: Austria, Czechia, Estonia, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland. They promote sustainable travel and connect sacred sites, cultural landmarks and rural communities, as a legacy of centuries of cultural exchange forging a shared European identity, from the Baltic Sea and Central Europe to Rome.

The [Saint Francis Ways](#) expand through 13 countries: Croatia, France, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Malta, Palestine, Portugal, San Marino, Slovak Republic, Spain and the United States of America. The network connects paths walked by Saint Francis himself with a wide range of universities and cultural sites linked with the Franciscans, transforming “a spiritual legacy into a shared European heritage”.

The Board congratulated eight existing Cultural Routes for renewal of their certification:

- [European Mozart Ways](#)
- [European Route of Megalithic Culture](#)

- [Aeneas Route](#)
- [Alvar Aalto Route – 20th Century Architecture and Design](#)
- [Cyril and Methodius Route](#)
- [European Route d'Artagnan](#)
- [Iron Age Danube Route](#)
- [Huguenot and Waldensian trail](#)

Certification was withdrawn for the Routes of the Olive tree and the Via Romea Germanica due to lack of compliance with the relevant [certification criteria](#).

Find more [here](#)

Image featuring [Saint Francis Ways](#) © [Council of Europe 2025](#)