

The European Federation of Saint Martin Cultural Centres



The European Federation of Saint Martin Cultural Centres is a non-profit association under French law which brings together 13 Centres in Europe : Austria, Belgium, Croatia, France (Via Sancti Martini France and Culturel Centre Saint Martin Corsica), Germany, Hungary, Italy (CCE Saint Martin Puglia and Friuli), Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia.... It is the organization responsible for developing the European Cultural Route "Saint Martin de Tours, a European figure, a symbol of sharing, a common value", certified since 2005 as a "European Cultural Route" (label awarded by the Council of Europe).

The European Federation of the Saint Martin Cultural Centres works with the European Institute of Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, in Luxembourg.

How does it work?

Actions (culture, heritage, higher education, education, cultural tourism, spatial planning, communication) are designed and monitored by all Saint Martin Cultural Centres in Europe in order to ensure coherence of intervention throughout Europe. Each Saint Martin Cultural Centre carries out in its country an inventory of martinian tangible and intangible cultural heritage. It proposes European projects related to the theme of the Itinerary: «Saint Martin, European character, symbol of sharing, common value» (Award of the « Partage citoyen », highlighting European projects, cultural and pedagogical activities, good practices...).

The Federation develops and updates the network's website : www.viasanctimartini.org

The Scientific Committee

Composed of university experts, members of the historical monuments conservation, archaeology, cultural development and territorial action, learned societies., the committee is responsible for participating in the implementation of the European Cultural Route Saint Martin of Tours through his work (symposia, round-table discussions, restoration and enhancement of martinian heritage, study of city applications). It guarantees the scientific quality of the work of the European Federation of Saint Martin.

What are the working languages ?

The official languages are those of the Council of Council of Europe. The working languages of the network are French and English.

What is the role of the network ?

Develop the European Cultural Route Saint Martin of Tours in collaboration with the European Institute of Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in Luxembourg.

Save and promote the shared tangible and intangible heritage of Saint Martin de Tours, based on inventory work

Disseminate and pass on knowledge, and constitute a genuine European cultural, tourist, economic, scientific and educational development.

Raise awareness of a European cultural identity and a European citizenship, based on one of our common values, « sharing »

Develop a European cultural itinerary, retracing the history of Saint Martin, his cult, his symbolic gesture and his evolution in European cultures.

Exercise an advisory function and expertise in order to develop actions related to Martinian cultural heritage, as a factor of improvement of the living environment and as a source of social, economic and cultural development, and to give a prominent place to cultural tourism, with a view to sustainable development.

To strengthen with countries that share a common history, and disseminate it, through the sharing and promotion of heritage in these countries, in order to promote mutual understanding.

To disseminate information and set up a database to serve as the memory of the Saint Martin of Tours European Cultural Itinerary program.

What are our reference tools ?

Visuals (leaflets, roll-ups, brochures)

A website

Publications

An electronic newsletter

Information on social networks

What are our missions?

An inventory of Martin's heritage

Thematic cultural Routes

Symposiums

Exhibitions

Cultural events: concerts, theatrical performances...

What is a a European Cultural Route?

The 47 European Cultural are managed by the European Institute of Cultural Routes, an emanation of the Council of Europe and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, which provides technical assistance to the networks, appraising new proposals and disseminating information.

The priority of a European Cultural Route is first and foremost a cultural one, with a variety of declinations: culture, research, education, heritage, artistic creation, cultural tourism... Its cross-border and European dimension enables interdisciplinarity and an awareness of our cultural identities.

One of the most important aspects of an Itinerary is the conservation and enhancement of the architectural and cultural Heritage.

A European Cultural Route is based on :

- A process of cultural cooperation that responds to the protection of Europe's cultural values, the function of a dynamic observatory that enables exchanges of information and experience, cooperation between different and complementary research fields.
- New forms of encounters between young Europeans
- Enhancement of little-known Heritage
- The creation of networks that synergize skills ranging from project design to implementation from project conception to completion.

<https://www.coe.int/fr/web/cultural-routes/european-institute-of-cultural-routes>

The European Cultural Route Saint Martin of Tours

280 cities in France bear the name of Saint Martin, and 3,700 monuments are dedicated to him. There are over 500 in Spain, 700 in Italy, 350 in Hungary; there are 13 Saint Martin's cathedrals in Europe. Canterbury, the first Anglican church, is named after him, and a major Parisian district bears his name. For over a thousand years, Saint Martin was patron of the kings of France, but also of many European countries, including Hungary, including Hungary. His influence spread throughout Europe and the world.

Rediscovering this cultural past in Europe through the implementation of a European Cultural Itinerary "Saint Martin de Tours, a European figure symbol of sharing, a common value" is the best way to pass on to future generations sixteen centuries of a cult linked to Europe's tangible and intangible heritage.

What are its main themes?

Great European figure

For over 1600 years, traces of Saint Martin of Saint Martin of Tours can be found all over Europe, in both tangible (historical and archaeological, cultural and artistic) and intangible (myths, rites, legends, beliefs or traditions). The development of his cult through the ages, while the notion of Europe had not yet appeared, brings out the idea of a European consciousness, undoubtedly linked to the personality of Saint Martin de Tours.

The European Cultural Route "Saint Martin of Tours, a European figure, a symbol of sharing, a common value" links European cities that shared the life of Saint Martin in the 4th century :

Szombathely, Pannonhalma, Pavia, Siccomario, Milan, Rome, Albenga, Amiens, Worms, Poitiers, Ligugé, Tours, Trier, Luxembourg, Paris...On the other hand, it connects major European cities that architectural heritage linked to the cult of Saint Martin of Tours :

- Cathedrals of Mainz,Eisenstadt, Bratislava, Lucca, Orense, Ypres, Groningen, Utrecht, Saragossa...
- Monasteries of Naples, Pannonhalma, Canigou, Palermo, Santiago de Compostela...

Saint Martin is still very much alive today in certain regions of Germany, France, Italy, Hungary, Slovenia, Spain... He is a historical European hero of legend and folklore. Martin is by far the most common surname in Europe, and one that is often chosen. His feast day, November 11, still gives rise to many festivities in goose-eating and new wine tasting, as well as popular events such as the popular events: the Saint Martin fair, children's parades with lanterns ...

Symbol of sharing

The 21st century is the century of material" sharing of water, food, the environment and wealth between developed Western Europe and the countries of Eastern Europe, from which it has been cut off for decades. as well as between the countries of the North and those on the other side of the Mediterranean and Black Africa... But it is also the century "of shared universal spiritual values, founders of many religions", as well as that of sharing experiences in development, law and democracy.

The recognition by the Council of Europe of the theme: «sharing, common value» allows, through this European Cultural Itinerary « Saint Martin of Tours, European figure, symbol of sharing, common value», to open the debate on the European values that have been transmitted to us, on their impact in the current and future European context. From the founding gesture of Saint Martin stressing the importance of sharing, it is now necessary to base the ethical and philosophical bases of the project on the following themes : sharing information, sharing knowledge, sharing technologies and common Heritage...

Pilgrimage routes

The rediscovery of pilgrimage routes to the tomb of Saint Martin in Tours is fundamental, as it is one of the most one of the oldest pilgrimages in Western Christendom, "la gallicana peregrinatio" (Pilgrimage of Gaul). They are far more difficulties than those of Santiago de Compostela, due to the scarcity of vestiges of such a remote era, and the silence of pilgrims unable to and the silence of pilgrims, most of whom were unable to write down their pilgrimages from the 4th to the 6th century. The Saint Martin of Tours European Cultural Route should help us rediscover the richness of this forgotten Martinian heritage.

What are its objectives ?

The aim is to develop multi-disciplinary networks (cultural, tourism, economic, scientific, educational...) and to collaborate in the implementation of long-term multilateral cooperation projects.

VALORIZATION OF THE MEMORY OF MARTINIAN EUROPEAN HISTORY AND HERITAGE

- Propose a variety of activities along itineraries in the footsteps and cult of Saint Martin, to highlight Martin's tangible and intangible heritage and local heritage.
- Explain the historical significance of these routes and highlight their correlations.
- Raise awareness of this heritage among the general public and decision-makers, emphasizing

the need to promote and protect it within a framework of sustainable development and the challenges they represent for Europe's future.

COOPERATION IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

- To be part of in a scientific approach based on the exchange of diversified and complementary identities in order to bring together dispersed knowledge. It will be multi-disciplinary in both theory and practice, and guaranteed by a by a national and European scientific committee. This cooperation in research and development will be based on actions and projects with a common rationale and highlighting their correlations in different European territories.

EXCHANGES FOR YOUNG EUROPEANS

- Organize long-term actions with the same groups of young people in order to encourage exchanges aimed at developing the notion of European citizenship, enriched by its diversity.
- Organize exchanges between young people with different educational backgrounds and from different territories.
- Set up pilot actions with participating countries to propose reference models.
- Constitute a training resource for universities (exchange programs, scholarships, etc.).
- Be a driving force of proposals for educational activities focusing on cultural heritage for young people in schools and colleges.

TOURISM AND SUSTAINABLE CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Set up initiatives and projects in the fields of cultural tourism and sustainable development.
- Connect the martinian heritage on certain routes through transcontinental tourism routes based on sport, personal development, terroir, environment and encounters with others. This will allow to rediscover the history of Saint Martin and his cult through a cultural and tourist practice, linked to these routes
- Take charge, in the field of cultural tourism, of the education of the public and the diversification of the supply as well as the demand, thus aiming to make emerge a tourism of quality of European dimension
- Implement with the support of the Scientific Committee and the European Institute of the Cultural Routes a historical study of European cultural discovery routes :

Tours - Paris - Trier - Mainz, Tours - Milan - Szombathely -Pannonhalma – Bratislava

Tours - Poitiers - Bordeaux - Zaragoza,

establishing continuity between the countries and communities involved. It will include an inventory of the tangible and intangible heritage of Saint Martin de Tours on the defined routes, which will feed into the computerized database.

CONTEMPORARY PRACTICE OF CULTURE AND THE ARTS

- Collaborate in the organization of concerts, entrusted each year to different ensembles (regions, France, Europe, within an exchange framework), on a Martinian theme, or new works, with contributions from complementary disciplines such as dance, staging, visual arts and lighting design.
- Collaborate in the organization of exhibitions entrusted to towns or territories wishing to share to share their Martinian heritage.
- Confront and exchange, in a multi-disciplinary perspective, the diverse expressions and artistic sensibilities of different European countries.
- Identify in contemporary culture and the arts, the most innovative creative practices in terms of creation, and confront them with the heritage of know-how, whether in the fields of visual arts, performing arts, creative crafts, architecture, music, literature or any other form of creativity. or any other form of cultural expression.
- To provide advisory role in setting up projects to promote contemporary art, as part of the coordination of the Saint Martin 's routes, local heritage initiatives : encouraging creative work in sculpture, painting and stained glass.

MULTIMEDIA

- Set up a portal site capable of activities, providing on-line access to comprehensive documentation on the creation of the European Cultural Route « Saint Martin of Tours, European figure, symbol of sharing, common value » with a history of the stages involved in setting up all the actions, as well as external links and databases of the program's partners and participants, downloadable documents, project archives, library, directory, news.

What are the actions implemented ?

LAUNCH OF EUROPEAN SAINT MARTIN CULTURAL HIKE

- Creation and labeling of European cultural walking routes in the footsteps and cult of Saint Martin de Tours. These cultural itineraries take into account, in Europe, linked to the history of Saint Martin, or those whose churches, fountains and localities dedicated to him. They also highlight the heritage of the Bishop of Tours (prieories, abbeys...). These cultural itineraries are signposted under a common European charter : a "D St M" signpost, a bronze "pas de saint Martin" (Saint Martin's step) by French sculptor Michel Audiard.
- Implementation of a policy to preserve preservation and enhancement of the Saint Martin de Tours heritage and to bring this heritage to life in France and Europe.