



EAVRG
European Association
VIA ROMEA GERMANICA

Cultural route
of the Council of Europe
Itinéraire culturel
du Conseil de l'Europe

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

PRESENTATION TO THE FORUM OF VIA ROMEA GERMANICA

Good Morning! To the representatives of the European Partial Agreement of the Cultural Routes, we would like to say how grateful we are for such a prestigious award and we will make every effort to honour it.

Our European Association was founded in 2018 and it is made up of three National Associations.

It is a historical route described in detail in the Annales Stadenses in the 13th century by the monk Albert of Stade. He had scrutinized all the routes to Rome existing in that period, including those from Belgium, France and Switzerland. He was particularly interested in the route from Stade, the Brenner Pass, the Serra Pass, to Rome which he called the "Melior Via" for the Germans and all the people coming from the north of Europe who arrived by ship at the river port of Stade and from there set off towards Rome covering 2,200 kms.

This project was founded at around the same time as another two associations (the German Romweg and the Italian Via Romea), both set up simultaneously only 11 years ago. The strength of the two associations is that they both rely strongly on volunteers who work with passion and without a salary, and who have walked together in Germany, Austria and Italy, so allowing other walkers to travel to places so rich in history, culture and traditions in natural environments of exceptional beauty.

The route rose from the collective dialogue of people culturally and religiously different. The interchange between Catholics and Lutherans produced a unique emblem, with the Latin inscription of Via Romeo Germanica.

Collaborations emerged between borough administrations, schools and Italian and German associations: the twinning of Bibbiena and Oschenfurt is such an example.

The registered office is in Bolzano where the cultures of North and South Europe converge.

One of our goals is to involve schools and young people; we believe that people's friendships start from the youngsters as they are free from nationalist cultural bonds. An example of this is the work carried out with the Tambosi Institute of Trento whose students made an App.

In addition, particular attention is paid to the less fortunate. An example of this is with the collaboration taken with the 'Lunghi Cammini' Association which aims to improve young peoples' conditions who suffer from various social and relational problems.

All these activities are carried out with the help of our Scientific Committee.

In 2015, with the support of the European Parliament and Council we established the Pilgrim Crossing Borders which began in Trondheim, Norway and ended in Rome after 180 days.

Next year we will implement a similar event from Strade to Rome covering 2,200 kms.

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Having accomplished European Recognition makes us feel proud and grateful to all of those people who have helped us.

However, we are also aware that the commitment taken up today challenges us to grow structurally.

We are very much in favour of collaboration between the various routes.

In fact, let's take a look at the Vie Romee, just a few days ago in Rome on 11th September we signed an agreement with the Via Francigena and the Romea Strata.

This is fundamental and I ask all of you, representatives of national and European governments, to encourage these collaborations and also the unions and mergers of Cultural Routes.

We need a wide-ranging direction: something that currently does not exist.

It will not be easy but if we want to create European unity, we must be the first to lead by example and find a way of working together, putting our small or big differences to one side.

Thanks again to all of you.

The President

(Flavio Foietta)

Bozen, September 2021