

**NETWORK OF UNIVERSITIES ON CULTURAL ROUTES STUDIES**

**GENERAL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE  
EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL ROUTES (EICR)**

**and**

***COMPOSTELA GROUP OF UNIVERSITIES***

**BETWEEN**

OF THE FIRST PART, Mr. Stefano Dominioni, Director of the EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL ROUTES (EICR, Luxembourg), and Executive Secretary of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA), on behalf of the European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR)

**–AND–**

OF THE SECOND PART, Ms. Carla Martins, member of the Executive Committee of the COMPOSTELA GROUP OF UNIVERSITIES<sup>1</sup>, on behalf of this international association of higher education institutions, with permanent office in Casa da Cuncha, rúa da Conga, no. 1, 15704 Santiago de Compostela (Spain), and with National Registry of Associations' code 145.292,

Both parties, in the exercise of their legally conferred powers, mutually acknowledge their sufficient legal capacity.

**Preamble**

In the framework of the Program of Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA), the European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR) coordinates a network of Universities on Cultural Routes' studies, with the aim of encouraging researches and mutual exchanges on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, insuring the creation of a platform for students and researchers exchanges and mobility, insuring the permanent interaction between members of the network and Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe representatives.

In coherence with Resolution CM/Res(2013)66 and Resolution CM/Res(2013)67 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, and the Lucca Roadmap (30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Advisory Forum of the Cultural Routes 2017), in particular:

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<sup>1</sup> List of members can be consulted in <http://web.gcompostela.org/members/>  
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**Acknowledging** the importance of cultural routes in relation to cross-border cultural co-operation and the development of sustainable cultural tourism which builds upon local knowledge, skills and heritage assets, promoting Europe – including lesser-known regions – as a destination offering a unique cultural experience,

**Noting** that the identification of European values and a common European cultural heritage may be achieved via cultural routes tracing the history of peoples, migrations, and the spread of the major European currents of civilisation in the fields of philosophy, religion, culture, the arts, science, technology and trade;

**Underlining** the importance of cultural routes as tangible illustrations, through European trans-border itineraries, of the pluralism and diversity of European culture based on shared values, and as means for intercultural dialogue and understanding;

**It shall strengthen** the democratic dimension of cultural exchange and tourism through the involvement of grassroots networks and associations, local and regional authorities, universities and professional organisations;

**Develop** innovative approaches in the fields of research and development as Cultural Routes offer the opportunity to develop multidisciplinary researches and stimulate cross-border cooperation. Research reinforces the work and the narrative of the Cultural Routes in particular to:

- a. Foster the collaboration between scholars of humanities, arts and social sciences in order to define the needs / methods of "measurable" and "evidence-based" implications;
- b. Explore new possibilities in research and development in order to effect creative approaches to cultural routes and to maximise their impact upon local communities and wider civil society;
- c. Reinforcing the work of the university network and increasing the links with the Cultural Routes;
- d. Widen the competences and disciplines of Universities involved in the NCRS;
- e. Develop funding opportunities together with the European Commission DG Research for future calls on H2020.

By virtue of the foregoing, both parties, who mutually acknowledge their sufficient legal capacity and competence to act herein, execute this Framework Convention for Collaboration as follows:

## **Article 1 General**

The **Compostela Group of Universities** agrees to cooperate in the framework of the Network of Universities Cultural Routes' studies, coordinated by the European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR), for a range of higher education activities.

The Network of Universities on Cultural Routes Studies shall support interdisciplinary studies and experimental activities that concern Cultural Routes and in particular the Cultural Routes certified by the Council of Europe.

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The **Compostela Group of Universities** identifies **Professor María Teresa Carballeira Rivera, Executive Secretary of the association and professor of Administrative Law at the University of Santiago de Compostela**, to be designated coordinator for the implementation and further development of this agreement.

The designated coordinator will represent the **Compostela Group of Universities** during the meetings of the Network of Universities on Cultural Routes' studies.

## **Article 2** **Commitments of the European Institute of Cultural Routes**

The European Institute of Cultural Routes insures to coordinate the Network of Universities on Cultural Routes' Studies.

The European Institute of Cultural Routes insures to implement the following issues in this framework:

- cooperation with **Compostela Group of Universities** in the creation of teaching modules on Cultural Routes according with the programme proposed by the **Compostela Group of Universities**;
- cooperation with **Compostela Group of Universities** and 'Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe' managers in the creation of an internship programme at EICR for students. The internship will be divided into two periods: during the first part the EICR will receive students, training them on the methodology of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe; during the second part the students will be received by the Cultural Routes interested in, according to the topic of the research conducted and to the needs of the routes;
- cooperation with **Compostela Group of Universities** in the creation of exchange programmes for students and researchers between the higher education institutions part of the association that may be interested in being involved in (*idea of a sort of Erasmus on Cultural Routes*);
- definition of priority topics for research programmes in cooperation with Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe;
- cooperation with **Compostela Group of Universities** in the creation of collaborative research projects, including joint applications for EU funding;
- creation of a web space on the website of the EICR, dedicated to researches and scientific works on cultural routes and on issues of common interest;
- creation of joint scientific publications and biennial conference on Cultural Routes (1<sup>st</sup> edition of the conference foreseen in 2019);
- creation of scholarships for Master and PhD students currently researching or having just researched Cultural Routes related topics;
- make the public archives of the EICR available for students and researchers.

### **Article 3**

#### **Commitments of the *Compostela Group of Universities***

The *Compostela Group of Universities* insures to implement the following issues in the framework of the Network of Universities on Cultural Routes' Studies but more specifically on the Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes, Cultural Route of the Council of Europe certified in 1987, and its values:

- creation of teaching sessions on Cultural Routes according with the programme proposed by the *Compostela Group of Universities*; its member universities will be invited to integrate the teaching sessions in its curricula offered to students;
- jointly organised internship for students, on specific topics, at the EICR (Luxembourg) and on the sites part of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, more specifically of the Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes, according to the topic;
- creation of exchange programmes for students and researchers between the higher education institutions part of the Compostela Group of Universities that may be interested in being involved in (*idea of an Erasmus on Cultural Routes*);
- collaborative research projects in cooperation with the EICR and, in priority, with higher education institutions part of the Network of Universities on Cultural Studies;
- planning of research programmes of interest to the EICR and to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, in partnership in priority with the higher education institutions part of the Network of Universities on Cultural Studies;
- implementation of a database dedicated to researches and scientific works on cultural routes and on issues of common interest on the Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes;
- encouragement to conduct researches for Master's Thesis and PhD Thesis on issues of interest for Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, specifically on the Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes, and communication of names to add to the database of researchers on Cultural Routes.

### **Article 4**

#### **Financial Framework**

This convention does not involve any financial commitment on the part of the undersigned institutions. EICR and *Compostela Group of Universities* may forecast in their annual budgets the costs necessary for the development of activities finally agreed, subject to the agreement of their respective governing bodies.

The activities may be established, by which the actions to be implemented are determined as well as, where appropriate, the necessary human and material resources for those, and by which the commitments undertaken by each party are defined and mutually agreed upon. The programmes and other activities covered by this General Framework Agreement that must be financed by the budgets of both institutions shall require their approval.

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Notwithstanding the foregoing, in each specific agreement or activity of common interest for the organizations developed under this General Framework Agreement, the relevant commitments, obligations, and rights of each party shall be specified.

The audit and control of the provision, implementation, and appropriate justification of the budgets committed by each party to properly carry out the activities approved in the performance of this framework convention shall be the responsibility of each party. All documentations and information required for this purpose must be provided by the other party in the exercise of that right.

#### **Article 5 Legal Framework**

Any dispute between the Institute and the Expert regarding the terms of execution of this contract shall be subject to a friendly settlement between the parties, or failing this, be submitted to arbitration under Luxembourg legislation.

#### **Article 6 Validity of agreement**

The present agreement is valid for a period of 3 years and will be renewed by tacit agreement.

Each party shall be able to withdraw by forwarding a 6 months prior written notice to that effect.

Read and approved, the appearing parties sign two certified copies of the same original text in English.