



THE EUROPEAN ROUTE OF HISTORIC PHARMACIES AND MEDICINAL GARDENS

Cultural Route of the Council of Europe



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



| 2025

2025 © Aromas Itinerarium Salutis

Credits

Pharmacy museum. Łódź, Poland © Pharmacy Museum of Łódź.

Lavender fields at the Botanical Garden of the Faculty of Agriculture-USAMV. Cluj-Napoca, Romania © Ph. Lucian Cuibus / University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Cluj-Napoca.

Semmelweis Museum of the History of Medicine. Budapest, Hungary © Ph. Eszter Blahák.

Accessible route at 'Pietro Castelli' Botanical Garden-UniMe. Messina, Italy © University of Messina.

Historic pharmacy of the Certosa di Trisulti. Colleparado, Italy © Ph. Simona Tardi.

Wood-carved portrait of Hippocrates at the Pharmacy Museum-UGR. Granada, Spain. © University of Granada.

Scientific collection of medicinal plants of Scientific Sector Medicinal (Aromatic) Plants (MAPs) of Department of Science at the Botanical Garden, Vytautas Magnus University. Kaunas, Lithuania © Vytautas Magnus University.

'Officina' at the Sarajevo Pharmacy Museum. Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina © Sarajevo Pharmacy Museum.

'Officina' at the Museum of the History of Lithuanian Medicine and Pharmacy-LSMU. Kaunas, Lithuania © Lithuanian University of Health Sciences.

Water lilies at the Arboretum. Canet-en-Roussillon, France. © Municipality of Canet-en-Roussillon.

Close-up of Purple Loosestrife. Salanque, France © Ph. Daniel Castello.

Glass bottles of the Doade historic pharmacy. Beariz, Spain © Ph. Miguel Álvarez Soaje.

**The European Route of
Historic Pharmacies and Medicinal Gardens**
Cultural Route of the Council of Europe

Dossier 2025

R. GRANAT. LAP. CALAM. CORAL. ALB. LAP. BEZ. OC. TVTHIAE. PP. L. HEMM. PP. HIACIN. OR.
 OC. COCCINEL. LAP. DIVIN. CORAL. R. LAP. JUDAIC. HIAC. PP. SVCIN. PP. ANTIM. PP.
 G. TVTHIAE. MAT. PERL. AR. LAP. SEM. TERR. SIG. CORAL. A. PP. POVOR. PP. PLUMB. PP.
 IVS. OC. CANC. BOLA. OR. CARAV. CRIST. MONT. CORAL. R. PP. OC. CANC. PP. L. JUDAIC. PP.
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THE EUROPEAN ROUTE OF HISTORIC PHARMACIES AND MEDICINAL GARDENS

THE THEME

In line with Council of
Europe's values

The European Route of Historic Pharmacies and Medicinal Gardens - Cultural Route of the Council of Europe is a geohistorical journey to emblematic places that preserve extensive aromatic knowledge. These include monastic pharmacies, ancient apothecaries, historical libraries, and botanical and medicinal gardens in European regions where such knowledge has historically stimulated intercultural and interreligious dialogue. These places also serve as a memory of a vast intangible heritage, encompassing scientific, botanical, and medical knowledge, ancestral crafts such as those of apothecaries and producers of medicinal plants—essential for the health of Europeans—and traditional knowledge and customs related to the use of aromatic substances in various human dimensions, whether spiritual or not, such as rituals, cosmetics, healing, and cooking.

Aromas: from raw materials
to cultural heritage

This intangible heritage connects many European and non-European countries through shared stories of aromas, which have been drivers of trade exchanges since ancient times, fostering dialogue between cultures and the spread of practices and knowledge that transcended geopolitical barriers. As evidence of this common memory, today we can rely on a significant material heritage (ancient apothecaries and historical pharmacies, pharmacy collections, herbaria, prescription books, pharmacy furniture, etc.), which, within the route, is subject to preservation, enhancement, and dissemination efforts.





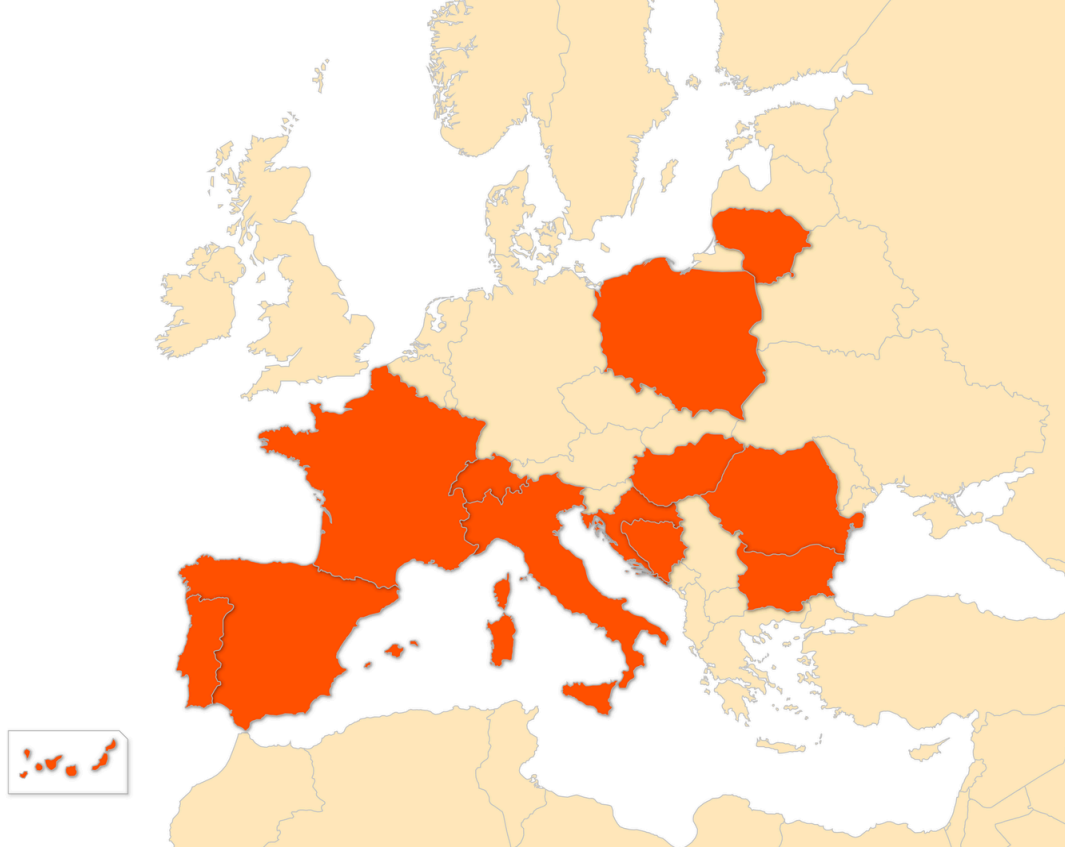
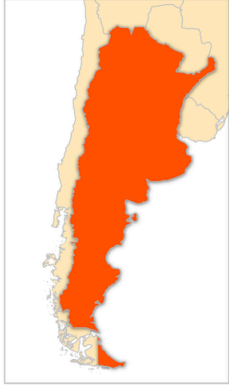
HERITAGE

Historic pharmacies, pharmacy museums and collections, and medicinal gardens

Interactive map available
on aromassalutis.eu



ARGENTINA	LL Yuyos medicinal garden, Villa Elisa
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	Pharmacy Museum, Sarajevo
BULGARIA	Botanical Garden-Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia
CROATIA	JGL Pharmacy Museum, Rijeka
FRANCE	Arboretum, Canet-en-Roussillon
HUNGARY	Semmelweis Museum, Library and Archive of the History of Medicine, Budapest
ITALY	Historic Pharmacy-Benedictine Community of Montevergine, Mercogliano Historic Pharmacy-Charterhouse of Trisulti, Colleparado Historic Pharmacy-SS. Sacramento di Roccavaldina Salerno Medical School Virtual Museum, Salerno Santa Maria dell'Orto, Roma Archaeological Park of the Colosseum, Roma Hesperidarium-The Citrus Garden, Pescia Pietro Castelli' Botanical Garden-University of Messina Minerva Garden, Salerno Medicinal Garden-Benedictine Monastery of St. Cecilia, Roma
LITHUANIA	Museum of History of Medicine and Pharmacy of Lithuania, Kaunas Širdažolė Historic Pharmacy, Vilnius Valerijonas Historic Pharmacy, Siauliai Botanical Garden-Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas
POLAND	Pharmacy museum, Łódź
PORTUGAL	Health and Pharmacy Museum, Lisboa Health and Pharmacy Museum, Porto
ROMANIA	Pharmacy Museum-National Museum of Transylvanian History, Cluj-Napoca Museum of Cluj Medical School-'Iuliu Hațieganu' University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Cluj-Napoca
SPAIN	Apothecary House Museum-Cervantes-León pharmacy, Madrid Catalan Pharmacy Museum-University of Barcelona Doade Pharmacy, Beariz Esteva Pharmacy-Civic Museum, Llívia Hispanic Pharmacy Museum-Complutense University of Madrid Pharmacy Museum, Banyeres de Mariola Museum of the History of Pharmacy-University of Granada Pharmacy Collection-MICOF, València Botanical Garden, Gombren Botanical Garden and Old Hospital-Sant Feliu de Guíxols Botanical Garden-University of València Citrus garden-Todoli Citrus Foundation, Palmera 'Illa del Rei' Hospital and medicinal garden, Maò (<i>on the left</i>) St. Maria de Sobrado Monastery, A Coruña
SWITZERLAND	Historic Library of Swiss Pharmacy, Bern Historic Pharmacy-Blumenstein Museum, Solothurn



THE ASSOCIATION AROMAS ITINERARIUM SALUTIS (AIS)

Foundation and headquarters

AROMAS ITINERARIUM SALUTIS (AIS) is a non-profit association based in Valencia, Spain. Established in 2021, its aim is to safeguard and promote the material and immaterial heritage of historical pharmacies and medicinal gardens. This is achieved through the creation and management of the European Route of Historic Pharmacies and Medicinal Gardens, along with the corresponding application for certification as a "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe."

The international governance

The governing bodies of the Aromas Itinerarium Salutis Association (AIS) are representative of all the countries members and carry out their work on the basis of the principle of democracy. The governing bodies are the following: Board of Directors, Scientific Committee, Team, and Steering Committee.

Fig. 2 2025 Map of the European Route of Historic Pharmacies and Medicinal Gardens (AIS G.A. / 27 February 2025). © AIS.

Fig. 3 AIS Annual Forum (15-16 May 2025 - València, Spain). © AIS.



The international NETWORK

In 2025, AIS' international network is composed of twelve European countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, and Switzerland) and one non European country (Argentina). These are represented by local public entities, non-profit organizations, universities, private individuals, and tourism stakeholders, as well as museums and interpretation centers located at sites that best represent the study area of the route. These locations contribute to reconstructing a European identity and memory rooted in history and stories that have contributed to the development of a knowledge and practices system around the use of aromatic and medicinal plants. They form the foundation of the development of contemporary European societies and cultures.

13 Countries

- Argentina
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- France
- Hungary
- Italy
- Lithuania
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Spain
- Switzerland

56 Members

- Municipalities
- Cultural institutions
- Universities and research centers
- Pharmacy museums and collections
- Historic Pharmacies
- Medicinal Gardens
- Tourism stakeholders



▲
AIS International network
(AIS-G.A./20250227)



AIMS

- Enhance the history and culture of aromatic and medicinal plants (as raw materials used in medicine, cosmetics, religion, cuisine, and art) as an element of identity and unity among the peoples of the Euro-Mediterranean region.
- Extend the knowledge and dissemination of the memory, history, and European heritage related to the Euro-Mediterranean regions, ancient civilizations, and intercultural dialogue.
- Promote intercultural dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean regions and countries, as well as their tangible and intangible historical heritage, landscapes, and the environment.
- Encourage sustainable tourism, human development, local development, and the corresponding job market, fostering its extension to new generations.
- Empower the international network of the Aromas Itinerarium Salutis Association and promote the program, activities, and values of the Council of Europe.

Specific objectives

- Organize research, academic, and educational activities in fields related to the theme of the Route.
- Promote and support the protection of cultural landscapes and traditions associated with aromatic and medicinal plants to preserve them as a common heritage of countries and regions.
- Recover traditional practices and heritage sites (e.g., medicinal gardens) related to the cultivation and manipulation of aromatic and medicinal plants.
- Recover and make accessible (on-site/online) heritage sites related to the theme of the route.
- Develop local and regional paths centered around the theme of the Route.
- Enhance creativity, contemporary artistic practices, and traditional arts.
- Promote the exchange of best practices in the fields of research, education, and tourism within the international network.



Fig. 4 Woman gathering saffron, Minoan fresco. Santorini, Greece, c. 1600 C. E. © Zdenek Kratochvil / WikiCommons.

Fig. 5 Workshop on Applied Diagnostics at Historic Pharmacy of SS. Sacramento. Roccavaldina, Italy. In collaboration with the Universitat de València, Soprintendenza Beni Culturali e Ambientali di Messina and Municipality of Roccavaldina. © AIS.



FIELDS OF ACTIONS

In line with the criteria of “Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe” program of certification (cf. Resolution [CM/Res\(2013\)67](#) on the rules for the award of the “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” certification of "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe"), the five priority fields of action of AIS are:

- Co-operation in research and development
- Enhancement of memory, history and European heritage
- Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans
- Contemporary cultural and artistic practice
- Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development

The actions of the AIS association are aimed at:

- To European youth;
- To safeguard the historical, cultural, and artistic dimension of the Route;
- To promote sustainable, slow, creative, and experimental tourism in the involved regions;
- To interact with other Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe or other cultural routes and affirm common values;
- To communication;
- To staff training.

RESOURCES

The internal regulations of the AIS association are available and can be downloaded at the following link:

<https://aromassalutis.eu/resources/>



Fig. 6 Cosmina Timoce interviews Natasia Duşa about traditional uses of medicinal plants (17 October 2024-Mănăstirea Sfânta Troiţă din Feleacu, Romania). EHD European Cross-Frontier Cooperation Project "Hygeia Legacy-SPICES" © AIS.

Fig. 7 *Aromas of Túrria and the 2030 Agenda: Floristic Route through Canyada Paredes, El Colom and Racó Fosc, Spain* (24 May 2025). © Municipality of Riba-roja de Túrria.

MEMBERSHIP

Benefits

Being part of an international network, which includes municipalities, universities, tourism stakeholders, pharmacy museums, botanical gardens, SMEs, and NGOs related to the theme of the Itinerary, provides:

- International visibility;
- Exchange of best practices and networking;
- Sharing of resources;
- Access to a common protocol for the study, enhancement, and dissemination of the cultural heritage of historical pharmacies;
- Access to projects (regional, national, and international) aimed at strengthening and promoting the theme of the Route and the network in the fields of research, cultural heritage enhancement, education, and sustainable tourism.

Mutual commitment

- Promote the values of democracy and cooperation among peoples as the basis for peaceful and civil coexistence;
- Actively participate in the scientific and educational activities, international dialogue, and cultural tourism activities of the AIS Association and pay the annual fee established by the General Assembly of the Cultural Route;
- Adherence to the criteria of “Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe” certification program (cf. Resolution [CM/Res\(2013\)67](#) on the rules for the award of the “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” certification of “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe”).



Fig. 8 Meltem Önhon (on the right) and Stefano Dominioni (on the left), respectively Chair and Executive Secretary of the Governing Board Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and the Executive Secretary deliver the “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” certification to M. Luisa Vázquez de Ágredos Pascual (in the center), Director of the AIS (13th Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. Certification Ceremony. 27 September 2024 - Budapest, Hungary). © Balázs Farkas-Mohi / Hungarian Open Air Museum.

Fig. 9 Visit to the Esteva Pharmacy at the Municipal Museum of Llivia, Spain. © AIS.



TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

- ORDINARY MEMBER**
- Pays an annual membership fee (see fee table).
 - Participates with the right to vote in general assemblies and can be elected as a member of the governing bodies of the international network.
- BENEFACTOR**
- Pays a one-time fee for the implementation of an initiative promoted by the international network (a project, a publication, etc.)
 - Does not have the right to vote in the assembly and cannot be elected as a member of the governing bodies.
- FRIEND**
- Does not pay a membership fee. Subscribes to a collaboration agreement with AIS.
 - Does not have the right to vote in the assembly and cannot be elected as a member of the governing bodies.

ADHESION PROCESS

- October** ● Opening of the Call for Membership applications (CfM).
The participation in the annual International Seminar for candidates and interested stakeholders is highly recommended.
The CfM will be open until December.
- December** ● Start of the evaluation phase. Candidates are required to present their application to the AIS Scientific Committee.
- February** ● Ratification of new members by the General Assembly.
- March** ● Deadline for payment of the first annual fee (ordinary members).
Update of AIS printed and digital promotional materials with new members.
- April-May** ● Official Honors Ceremony: Presentation of the membership certificate and the Member Destination plaque.

Fig. 10 The Director María Luisa Vázquez de Ágredos Pascual (on the left) delivers the certificate of membership to the director of the Pharmacy Museum of Łodz Łukasz Pigonski (on the right). Official Honors Ceremony. AIS Forum (16 May 2025 - València, Spain). © AIS.

Fig. 11 The Vice-Chair of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Governing Board Sergio Ortega Muñoz (on the left) delivers the Member destination plaque to the Director of the Pharmacy Museum Sarajevo Tarik Čatić (on the right). Official Honors Ceremony. (AIS Forum. 16 May 2025 - València, Spain). © AIS.





Cultural route
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

THE PROGRAMME

“Cultural Routes are an invitation to travel and discover the rich and diverse heritage of Europe, bringing together people and places in networks of shared history and heritage. They embody the values of the Council of Europe: human rights, cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue, and reciprocal exchanges across borders.”

Council of Europe

"The Cultural Routes Program was established in 1987 (Santiago de Compostela Declaration) with the awareness of the existence of significant sites of European cultural interest and their potential role in cultural promotion during leisure time. It also stemmed from the need to build sustainable tourism that generates human development. Hence, the idea of promoting, through travel, the rediscovery of European cultural identity and common memory.

The foundations of the program are based on the contents of the European Landscape Convention, which considers the landscape as an integral part of local and collective European identities, and those of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society."

THE CERTIFICATION

The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe are an invitation to travel and to discover the rich and diverse heritage of Europe by bringing people and places together in networks of shared history and heritage. They put into practice the values of the Council of Europe: human rights, cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and mutual exchanges across borders.

Today 48 Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe provide a wealth of leisure and educational activities for all citizens across Europe and beyond and are key resources for responsible tourism and sustainable development. They cover a range of different themes, from architecture and landscape to religious influences, from gastronomy and intangible heritage to the major figures of European art, music and literature.

Through this program, the Council of Europe offers a model for transnational management of culture and tourism and allows the development of synergies between national, regional and local authorities and a wide range of socio-economic associations and players.

THE INSTITUTE

In order to implement and develop the Program in 1998, the European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR) was set up within the framework of a Political Agreement between the Council of Europe and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, which regulated the action of this institution in 49 Countries signing the Convention and, according to the geographical and historical necessity of the themes, in the countries that had and still have direct relations with the European continent. The Institute – which has prestigious venues to host project promoters, researchers, students and all stakeholders – is also in charge of participating in European training, research and analysis programs focusing on cultural tourism both for European Commission and Governments and those responsible for public and private projects.

The first Route included in the Program was the Camino de Santiago de Compostela, later expanded in the "Pilgrimage Routes in Europe". After that, other cooperation issues have been proposed at the European Institute of Cultural Routes, up to the current 48 certified cultural routes.

More information: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes/home>



Fig. 12 Neumünster Abbey, Luxembourg. Headquarters of the European Institute of Cultural Routes offices. © Council of Europe.



▲ Fig. 13 13th Advisory Forum (25-27 September 2024 - Visegrád, Hungary). © Balázs Farkas-Mohi / Hungarian Open Air Museum.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

of the certification programme

“Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe”

● **SEPTEMBER | Annual Advisory Forum**

The Cultural Routes Annual Advisory Forum is annually organised in close collaboration with one of the member States of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA). It enables the reunion of member States representatives, Cultural Routes operators, candidate networks to the certification “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe”, international organisations, local and regional authorities, civil society organisations, chambers of commerce, foundations and other donor organisations and heritage and tourism organisations and platforms. It discusses trends and challenges in relation to Cultural Routes and provide a platform for the exchange of experience, review of progress with the implementation of Cultural Routes, debates on new professional practices, the launch of new initiatives and the development of partnerships (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes/annual-advisory-forum>).

● **OCTOBER-NOVEMBER | Academic Workshop**

The European Institute of Cultural Routes, in cooperation with the University Network, holds an annual academic workshop. Each year, the workshop brings together nearly 300 scholars, researchers, students, and other participants from Europe and beyond to exchange and share their research outcomes in the field of Cultural Routes studies. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes/university-network>

● **MAY-JUNE | Training Academy**

Every year, a Training Academy on Cultural Routes is organised in close collaboration between the European Institute of Cultural Routes and a certified Cultural Route of the Council of Europe. It gathers around 100 managers and representatives of certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe aimed at providing Cultural Routes operators with training on specific current issues in the fields of cultural heritage, management, communication, funding, social participation and tourism promotion, among other topics. (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes/training-academy>)



▲ Fig. 14 Headquarters of the AIS Association. Faculty of Geography and History of the University of Valencia © Universitat de València.

CONTACTS

AROMAS ITINERARIUM SALUTIS (AIS)

The European Route of Historic Pharmacies and Medicinal Gardens
Cultural Route of the Council of Europe

ADDRESS

Headquarters:
Universitat de València,
Facultat de Geografia e Història
Av. de Blasco Ibáñez 28,
46010 Valencia, España

E-MAILS

Secretariat:
director@aromassalutis.eu
simona.tardi@aromassalutis.eu

WEBSITE

www.aromassalutis.eu

SOCIAL

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/aromas.itinerarium.salutis>
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