



The **HYGEIA LEGACY** VALÈNCIA 2023



CONCEPT NOTE

On 1 June 2021, the Governing Council of the University of Valencia officially established the headquarters of the International Association Aromas Itinerarium Salutis (AIS) at the Faculty of Geography and History, with the aim of developing a new route to be submitted for certification by the Council of Europe as the European Route of Historic Pharmacies and Medicinal Gardens.

Within this framework, *The Hygeia Legacy* takes shape as the first edition of the International Seminar organised by AIS, in collaboration with the University of Valencia, the Very Illustrious Official College of Pharmacists of Valencia, and the University's Botanical Garden. The seminar offers a space for transnational dialogue and reflection on the cultural, historical, and identity-based role of historic pharmacies and medicinal gardens in shaping a shared European memory.

The title of the event evokes the symbolic figure of *Hygeia* – the Greek goddess of health and prevention – and, with it, an integrated heritage approach that connects medical knowledge, botanical traditions, spirituality, pharmaceutical art, and the care of both bodies and territories. The initiative focuses in particular on pharmacy collections and museums, regarded as custodians of a tangible and intangible heritage that is often underrepresented, yet of immense significance in understanding the history of public health, science, and material culture in Europe.

Through a series of thematic sessions, contributions from scholars, sector professionals, museum curators, and representatives of local authorities and cultural associations, the seminar explores key issues related to the conservation, musealisation, digitisation, communication, and participatory enhancement of this heritage. The event also provides an opportunity to present current experiences from different countries within the AIS network, contributing to the formulation of a shared strategy for the recognition and promotion of the Route at European level.

The Hygeia Legacy thus represents a founding moment in the consolidation of the Aromas Itinerarium Salutis project, promoting a model of sustainable, inclusive, educational and sensorial cultural tourism, consistent with the values of the Council of Europe's Cultural Routes Programme and the objectives of the 2030 Agenda.