



CONCEPT NOTE

1. The framework

Aromas Itinerarium Salutis (AIS) is the association responsible for the development of the *European Route of Historic Pharmacies and Medicinal Gardens*, a thematic network that, at the time of this event, is a candidate for certification within the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme.

The Route explores the cultural and scientific legacy of historic pharmacies and medicinal gardens in Europe, as spaces of memory, care and knowledge transmission. From monastic herb gardens to university collections, from *materia medica* to biodiversity conservation, this heritage tells a story of healing practices, civic responsibility and the link between culture, nature and health.

AIS promotes a vision of heritage that is living, inclusive and shared. Through a growing transnational network of museums, gardens, universities, municipalities, research centres, cultural organisations and small enterprises, the association supports dialogue across disciplines and generations, and fosters cooperation between territories committed to cultural sustainability, accessibility and education.

2. The second edition: theme and objectives

Held on 11–12 March 2024 in Rijeka, Croatia, the second edition of *The Hygeia Legacy* follows the successful first edition held in València in 2023. Organised by AIS in collaboration with Jadran Galenski Laboratorij (JGL) and its JGL Pharmacy Museum, the City of Rijeka, the Rijeka Tourist Board, the City Museum of Rijeka, the University of Rijeka, the seminar brings together institutions and professionals from twelve European countries.

This edition takes place at a strategic moment for AIS, as the Route advances toward its formal certification. The chosen theme, *Building the Future from Heritage through Education*, reflects AIS's core belief that pharmaceutical heritage is not only a legacy of the past but a living tool for shaping contemporary European culture.

The event aims to support dialogue among professionals working in historic pharmacies, medicinal gardens, science museums, university departments and local communities. It encourages the exchange of methods and perspectives on how to make this heritage accessible, meaningful and impactful through educational and cultural action.



The seminar aims to encourage dialogue among professionals active in historic pharmacies, medicinal gardens, science museums, universities and local communities. Its main objective is to promote educational and inclusive approaches to the interpretation and transmission of this shared heritage.

Particular attention is given to accessibility, sensory-based learning, and the role of traditional knowledge in contemporary teaching and engagement practices. From pharmacopoeias to herbariums, from apothecaries' tools to medicinal plant gardens, the Route's heritage is presented as a system of tangible and intangible assets that inform health literacy, environmental awareness and cultural diversity.

3. Impact

The event welcomes delegations from twelve European countries, representing a wide range of actors in the fields of heritage, health, education, tourism and local development. Institutional engagement includes the participation of the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia, through its Directorate for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, ensuring alignment with national frameworks for the safeguarding of movable, ethnographic and intangible heritage. A keynote contribution is expected from the Ministry's representative to the European Institute of Cultural Routes (EPA), with a focus on the certification programme and the relevance of historic pharmacies as cultural assets under national protection.

The agenda includes scientific sessions, institutional dialogue, technical visits and immersive activities across key heritage sites in Rijeka. The themes addressed include the educational potential of historic pharmacies and medicinal gardens, accessibility of cultural content, multisensory learning experiences and the relevance of traditional knowledge in contemporary engagement practices. From pharmacopoeias to botanical collections, from community gardens to historic laboratories, this heritage is presented as a vital resource for cultural and environmental awareness.

The second edition of *The Hygeia Legacy* consolidates the identity and vision of the Route and strengthens its operational foundations. It provides a platform for institutions and professionals to share practices, generate new partnerships and reflect on the future of this European heritage.

The seminar confirms *The Hygeia Legacy* as the first European platform specifically dedicated to the actors of pharmaceutical and medicinal garden heritage, offering a shared space for scientific exchange, international cooperation and intercultural dialogue. In doing so, it contributes actively to the promotion of the core values of the Council of Europe: cultural diversity, democratic participation and respect for human dignity.