



Second Edition of the European Pedestrian Relay

*From April to September 2010 in
Europe.*

PRESENTATION DOCUMENT





Our Federation



The ways of Saint Jacques de Compostelle

"On the ways of Saint Jacques de Compostelle one finds men and women who may not share the same religious, political or social opinions, but whose main goal remains the sharing of an identical personal quest with tolerance, respect and a love for others."

Jack Durvicq

THE FEDERATION OF THE ASSOCIATIONS OF THE FRIENDS OF THE WAYS OF SAINT JACQUES DE COMPOSTELLE is an organisational tool designed for those associations whose purpose is the development and preservation of the Ways of Compostelle, Major Cultural Route of the Council of Europe. It sets up national projects which favour the sharing of experiences and knowledge. It gives them concrete technical support which is useful for their development and local activities. It also represents them to national, namely European, institutions and contributes to their recognition as formative elements in the setting up of the Route.



OUR FEDERATION IS A UNIQUE NETWORK

- **A human network** with over 6,000 people willing to get involved in shared activities and projects
- **A network with an identity, characterised by its moral code** with the aim of actively passing on the values of solidarity, hospitality and tolerance by the experience of, and participation in, a shared project.
- **An intergenerational network** where old and young alike come together to build a future founded on knowledge and transmission.
- **A network of skills** with a national team possessing a diverse range of knowledge and skills enabling it to respond to the needs of the associations and to structure a comprehensive strategy for the setting up of the European Cultural Route. The members' skills are also shared for the good of the group.
- **A network of resources** with our Internet portal

- **A communication network** directly linking more than 30 associations and associated organisations, creating a real space of exchange and common construction.

THE FEDERATION OF THE ASSOCIATIONS OF THE FRIENDS OF THE WAYS OF SAINT JACQUES DE COMPOSTELLE was recognised by the Council of Europe, Federation of the Associations of the Friends of the Ways of Saint Jacques de Compostelle in 2004 at a ceremony in Strasbourg. It now works closely with the **European Institute of Cultural Routes** for a national organisation of the Ways of Saint Jacques de Compostelle, declared "Major Cultural Route of the Council of Europe".
<http://www.culture-routes.lu>

It is developing partnerships with other labelled Cultural Routes: Saint Martin de Tours, the ways of Mont Saint Michel and the Via Francigena as well as the Federation of Cluniac Sites. All of these movements are brought together in the same space of exchange and sharing of knowledge at the heart of the Council of Europe under the name "**The Ways of Pilgrimage**".

It works to **preserve and develop the spirit of the paths as inscribed in an evolution of our societies**, as well as its built, natural and immaterial heritage symbolised by the value of "Hospitality" which is universal and intrinsic to the paths. Via the organisation of national-level thematic reflections and projects, it actively participates in the policy for the development of ethical, responsible and cultural tourism which is at the heart of the Cultural Routes programme of the Council of Europe.



THE FEDERATION was introduced during the European colloquium organised by the Council of Europe in the Puy-en-Velay in September 2007 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of its programme. It took part in the writing of the "**Declaration of the PUY**" laying down the framework for the following years' development of this exceptional heritage considered by UNESCO as part of the World Heritage.

French Federation of the Associations of the Ways of Saint Jacques de Compostelle

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Europa Compostela 2010

When Saint Jacques' day falls on a Sunday, the year in question is considered to be a holy year. Accordingly, special activities are organised in France and Europe by all those involved in the Ways of Compostelle to celebrate this important event. It was in 2004, a holy year, that the Saint Jacques associations had the idea of joining together to work on a common project.

Together, they set up the first edition of EUROPA COMPOSTELA, a great fraternal walk in the form of a relay, uniting 70 organisations throughout France and the rest of Europe. **More than 14,000km were covered in 515 stages and over 200 different events and activities were organised by the participating associations.** The **Council of Europe** gave its support and sponsored this courageous initiative. **Pope John Paul II**, informed of the walk, delivered a universal message which was shared at Santiago on 15th September. This first successful initiative forged links and was dedicated to peace and the victims of the Madrid train bombings.

2010, the next holy year, is coming around quickly. A major year for the ways of Compostelle but also for the future of humanity, undergoing a profound crisis in ethical as much as economic, financial, dietary or environmental terms. It is in this context that the associations of the Federation **propose organising a second edition "EC2010" with the strong and committed message "LET'S SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH THE EARTH AND MAN"**. Dedicated to the preservation of our natural heritage that is the Ways of St Jacques and, more widely, of the environment, as well as to the absolute recognition of the dignity of Man, it is as committed pilgrim-walkers that everyone will walk across Europe. 20,000km await us and numerous cultural events are planned with over 10 countries taking part. We are concerned by the great challenge that faces us and want to carry this message far and wide to increase awareness.

The principle of the European relay

Walkers will part from different points in Europe. They will carry with them a relay baton in the form of a pilgrim's staff, which will be passed on from stage to stage and from walker to walker. In France, they are to pass along the four great French routes (Paris - Vézelay - Le Puy - Arles) and the cross-country routes (the Atlantic Way, the Way Piémont Pyrénéen, the Catalan Way, etc.). They will continue in Spain on the "Camino Francés" and arrive in Santiago on 18th September 2010. The visitors' books will also pass from stage to stage with the walkers. At each point of passage, the public will be able to sign them and write messages which will then travel with the pilgrim-walkers all the way to Santiago.

Along the length of the route, at the main stopping points and in the localities travelled through, **festive and cultural events are planned.** Here the symbolic planting of a tree and route cleaning operations, there a play, a concert or an exhibition. These different and highly colourful events are to represent the richness and diversity of the Associations.

The blog and the website: The public can follow the walkers live in Europe every day and leave messages on the EC2010 blog and website. The associations will also publish information and experiences on their websites.

FÉDÉRATION

BIENVENUE SUR NOTRE SITE !

La Fédération Française des Associations des Chemins de Saint-Jacques de Compostelle est heureuse de vous accueillir dans son espace

Elle vous propose de découvrir une voie de pèlerinage et de vous aider dans le repère en ces 8 ports Médié :

- Via de Arles, Puy et Via de la Garde
- Via de Le Puy et Via de Bourges
- Via de Le Puy et Via de France
- Via de Vézelay
- Via de Tours
- Via de Orléans

* Sur les chemins de Compostelle existent de nombreux sites nommés « sites fermés ». Ils participent aux obligations de nos frères pèlerins, pèlerins de Compostelle, mais dans l'objectif principal reste le partage d'une expérience personnelle, le temps de l'instant, sans prise en compte, respectant ainsi l'esprit "Jack Dorville".

EUROPA COMPOSTELA

THE PROGRAMME

28th April 2010: Opening

Large launch event in Strasbourg, capital of Europe, in partnership with the Council of Europe, and in the major cities of France

- Ceremony at the Council of Europe
- Celebration in the Cathedral
- Handing over of the batons and visitors' books to representatives of the participating organisations
- Symbolic planting of a tree
- Organisation of a European relay in the city (the 27 countries of Europe walk and pass the baton in a symbol of unity)
- Departure of the walkers and batons in Europe, the first walker leaving from Norway.

From April to September 2010

- The relay continues and cultural events are held throughout Europe.

18th September 2010: Arrival at Saint Jacques de Compostelle in Spain

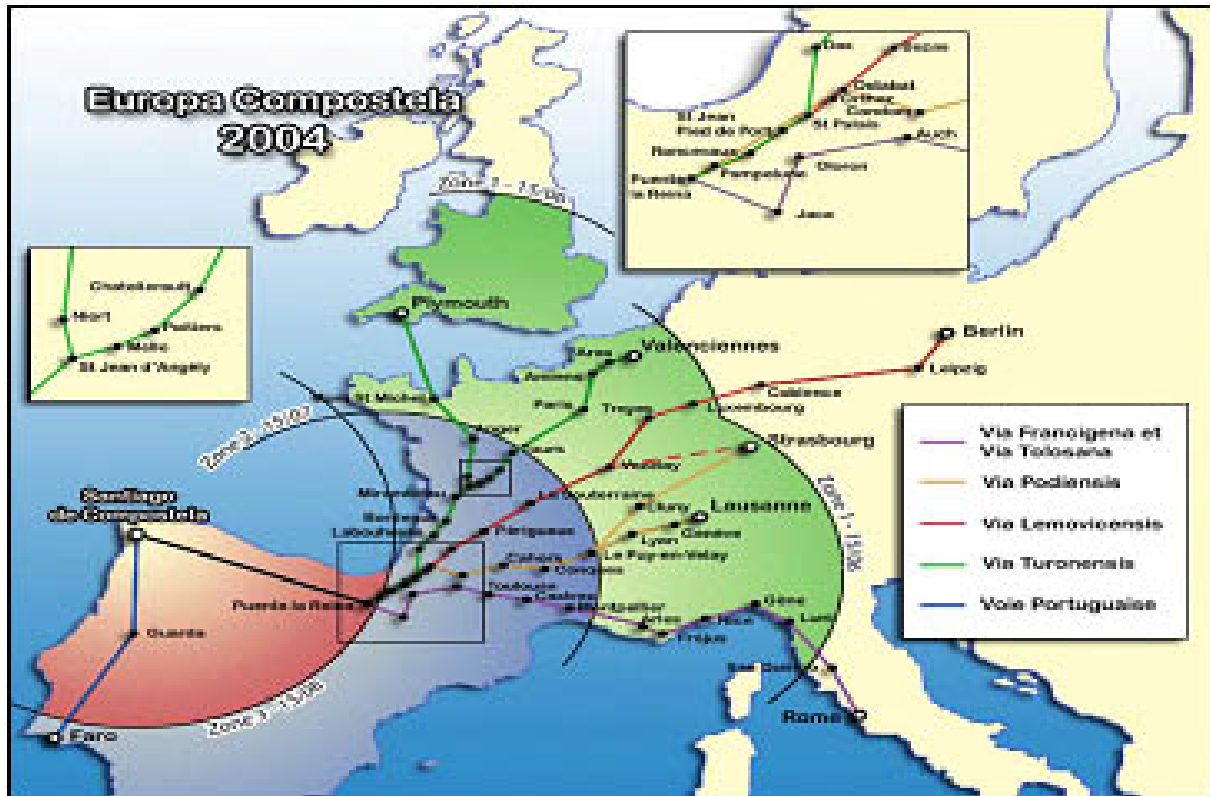
- Organisation of a large welcome event for the walkers
- Celebration in the Cathedral

25th September 2010: Return of the pilgrims' staffs and visitors' books to France

- Closing ceremony in the Puy-en-Velay, a French starting point of the Ways of Saint Jacques.
- Celebration in the Cathedral

Countries taking part : Norway, England, Germany, Holland, Luxembourg, Belgium, Italy, Slovenia, France, Spain, Portugal.

The Relays in 2004





Why join our project?

The French Federation of the Associations of the Ways of Saint Jacques de Compostelle has given itself the target of creating a strong and solid network, allowing future walkers, pilgrims, to carry out their walk in the best conditions, and to have a unique experience in human terms.

For several years, it has faced new problems, notably those linked to the constant increase in walkers, visitors and pilgrims, concerning the lack of accommodation and the natural and cultural heritage.

The French Federation of the Associations of the Ways of Saint Jacques de Compostelle is committed to preserving this exceptional heritage in two ways. First of all, it aims to carry out awareness campaigns for the walkers and the public about these problems. It proposes numerous outings, events, walks and cultural projects during which the participants will be made aware of these problems.

Additionally, it hopes to promote its values of solidarity, hospitality and tolerance through the walkers' preparations. The associations which form the Federation pass on these values by their daily actions in welcoming the walkers (accommodation in gîtes, homestays), and by the information they provide (the creation of topographical guides, the distribution of data and maps, the organisation of conferences and exhibitions).

To this end, it is actively searching for associations and partners that it can bring together with the purpose of protecting the paths and landscapes, and of promoting the humanist dimension. In proposing that they take part in Europa Compostela 2010, it hopes to create a synergy, a human chain in favour of a profound and common cause.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

At a national level:

The French Federation of the Associations of the Ways of Saint Jacques de Compostelle sets up the general organisational framework and provides support and tools for the setting up of the relays in France and in Europe. It centralises the project information and sets up a national public relations campaign. It is the national referent at the Council of Europe.

At a local level:

The associations and different participants make the decisions autonomously in their sector regarding the setting up of their initiatives, and organise the relays and their passage as well as the cultural events.

At an international level:

The French Federation of the Associations of the Ways of Saint Jacques de Compostelle transfers the methodology. It centralises information for common and consistent communication.

Each country sets up its relays and cultural events according to its own choices.

How can you take part?

Contact the Federation!

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