



CRITERIA

(ACCEPTED BY THE BOARD OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL ROUTES IN LUXEMBOURG)

1° / WAYS AS PATH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In this sense of the term the Route exploits and promotes, for purposes of tourism and culture, Territories and places coinciding with the journey made by the Longobards - over a period of 1100 years - along the "European geocultural corridor" that extended from the seas of the North to the Mediterranean.
2° / WAY AS "WAY OF BEING"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In this sense of the term, the Route enhances and promotes knowledge of the evolutionary phases of Longobard Culture: from the dawn of its documented history to its peak, represented by the formation of the "PRIMARY ROOT OF EUROPEAN CULTURE, THEN DEVELOPED BY THE CAROLINGIANS" (UNESCO, 2011); to the opening to a new Mediterranean culture; to its nature as a recognized "EARLY MEDIEVAL EXAMPLE OF SUCCESSFUL MIGRATION-INTEGRATION PHENOMENON".
3° / TERRITORY, NATURE, HISTORIC LANDSCAPES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through ancestral paths and Roman roads, but also modern highways of more general tourist interest, the route allows - also through toponymy - knowledge of the functions assigned to the Territories in the Lombard era and of the changes that occurred in the landscape, and stimulates a development potential based on the reinterpretation of the natural balance and the links between urban and rural centers.
4° / SETTLEMENT AREAS, NECROPOLES AND CENTRES OF POWER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In its territorial articulations and diversifications, the Path unites places where the Longobard presence is archaeologically or documentarily confirmed by settlement areas such as necropolises, cities and villages, centres of power (royal cities, duchies, gastaldati), structures with defence and control functions.
5° / PLACES OF WORSHIP, MONASTERIES AND SANCTUARIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Route, especially in the Italian territory, brings together places of worship, monasteries and sanctuaries built and supported by the Longobard aristocracy. The above-mentioned entities were of fundamental importance to disseminate faith, to safeguard classical texts and as a still active reference point for the later phenomenon of pilgrimages, which enabled "intense cultural exchanges and the emergence of a sense of unity between different peoples".
6° / MATERIAL CULTURE AND ARTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Route identifies the guidelines for the use of artistic-cultural paths into which it is possible to divide physical itineraries and purely cultural itineraries. They are: the elements of material culture (itineraries to learn about museum objects in relation to periods, styles and areas of influence); artistic and architectural elements, starting from the UNESCO serial-site "The Longobards in Italy. The centres of power (568-774 b.C.)"; the elements of the figurative Arts.
7° / MACROAREAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The articulation of the European route is based on four macro-areas, each corresponding to specific phase areas of the development of Longobard civilization: the Northern European phase, defined as "Lands of Elba"; the Central-East European phase, defined as "Lands of the Kings"; the Italian phase, defined as "Lands of the Kingdom"; the Mediterranean phase, defined as "Lands of the Princes".
8° / IDENTITY CLUSTERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each macro-area of the Route is subdivided into "Identity Clusters", that is into territories characterized by particular historic and environmental features referring to the presence of the Longobards and in which, alongside the basic cultural path, there are also minor territorial areas (municipal areas) with their respective resources of interest for tourism (other cultural lines, excellent products in the sectors of wines and gastronomy, handicrafts, etc.).