

CRITERIA

<p>1° / FOUNDING STAGES OF THE SUBJECT “EUROPE” AND ITS CULTURE</p>	<p>The cultural Route "<i>Longobard Ways across Europe</i>" – based on scientific, archaeological, artistic, monumental, and documentary evidence – fits perfectly into the early medieval context and takes on full significance for a series of factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The direction and duration of the Longobard epic</i>, which developed in various trans-European evolutionary phases from Northern Germany (from the 2nd-1st century BC to the 1st-4th century AD) to Central-Eastern Europe (4th-6th century AD), Italy (the Kingdom period: 568-774), and the Longobard principalities of the South (774-1077). ○ <i>The Longobard contribution—direct and indirect—to the founding and developmental phase of European history</i>, with the origin of the concept of "Europe" as a unitary reality, encompassing all the peoples who inhabit it (the Epistles of Saint Columbanus) and with the birth of the Carolingian Empire, which promoted the political concept of "Europe"; ○ <i>The evolution of Longobard Culture as the <primary root of European Culture></i> through the fusion—fueled by Christian principles—of Germanic, Late Antique, classical, Greco-Roman, and Eastern Byzantine traditions, with additional Slavic, Bulgarian, and Arab-Islamic influences.
<p>2° / <WAY> AS “PATH”</p>	<p>In this sense of the English term <Ways> it enhances and promotes, for tourist and cultural purposes, Territories and places coinciding with the journey undertaken by the Longobards - over the course of 1200 years - along the "<i>European geocultural corridor</i>" extending with various ramifications from the Northern Seas to Central-Eastern Europe, to the Mediterranean.</p>
<p>3° / <WAYS> AS “WAYS OF BEING”</p>	<p>In the second meaning of the English term <Ways> it valorises and promotes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) knowledge of the evolutionary phases of Longobard Culture: from the dawn of its documented history to its peak, represented by the formation of the "<i>primary root of European Culture</i>" (UNESCO, 2011); to the opening to a new Mediterranean Culture; to its nature as a recognised "<i>early medieval example of a successful migration-integration phenomenon</i>" b) A greater awareness of the values expressed by European culture to enrich the sense of shared <<i>European citizenship</i>>.
<p>4TH / TERRITORY, NATURE, HISTORICAL LANDSCAPES</p>	<p>Through ancestral paths and Roman roads, but also modern communication routes of tourist interest, the Route allows - also through toponymy - knowledge of the functions assigned to the Territories in the Longobard era and the changes that occurred in the landscape, and stimulates a current development potential based on the reinterpretation in terms of sustainability of the natural balance and the relationships between major and smaller urban centers</p>
<p>5° / AREE DI INSEDIAMENTO, NECROPOLI, CENTRI DI POTERE, MUSEUMS AND HISTORICAL ARCHIVES</p>	<p>In its territorial articulations, the Route unites places where the Longobard presence is archaeologically confirmed by settlement areas such as necropolises, structures with defense and control functions, centers of power and is also represented by Museums and Historical Archives, custodians of collections from the Longobard-Early Medieval period and therefore called <<i>primary sources of European Culture</i>>.</p>
<p>6° / PLACES OF WORSHIP, MONASTERIES, ABBEYS AND SANCTUARIES</p>	<p>The Route, especially in Italy, brings together places of worship, monasteries, abbeys, and sanctuaries built and supported by the Longobard kings and aristocracy. These sites were crucial for the spread of the faith, for the preservation of classical texts, and as references for the development of the pilgrimage phenomenon, which allowed for "<i>intense cultural exchanges and the emergence of a sense of unity among the different peoples.</i>"</p>
<p>7TH / MATERIAL CULTURE AND ARTS</p>	<p>The Route encourages the use of specific artistic-cultural itineraries that complement the historical and religious routes. The art itineraries are represented by: a) places where artistic-monumental assets from the Longobard era can be found (starting from the UNESCO serial site "<i>The Longobards in Italy. The Centres of Power [568-774 AD]</i>"); b) the Museums and Historical Archives referred to in Criterion 5; c) places where expressions of the figurative arts inspired by the Longobard aristocracy are visible.</p>

8° /MACRO-AREAS	The Route encourages the use of specific artistic-cultural itineraries that complement the historical and religious Routes. The art itineraries are represented by: a) the Northern European phase (“Lands of Elba”); b) the Central-Eastern European phase (“Lands of the Kings”); c) the first Italian phase (“Lands of the Kingdom”); d) the second Italian and Mediterranean phase (“Lands of the Princes”).
9° / IDENTITY CLUSTERS	Each macro-area of the Route is divided into "Identity Clusters", i.e. territories characterised by particular historical and environmental values attributable to the presence of the Longobards and in which - alongside the basic tourist Route, based on sustainability - there are smaller areas with their respective resources of current tourist interest (valuable naturalistic areas, excellence in the agri-food, food and wine, crafts sectors, specialist paths, etc.).