

THE ROAD TRIP PROJECT



January 2018

Mediterranean Road

Keywords: **Civilisation**, people, earth and sea, humanity, cradle, roots, movement, exchange, agitation, archeology, crossing, terroir, (agri)culture

Common flavour: "the route of the roots". Crossroads of civilizations, mosaic of peoples. A crossing of tasting and thought. Intellectual food of the land. A journey for taking a step back, to wage a peaceful war against stereotypes.

Starting point: Athens (Greece)

Point of arrival: Lascaux (France)



GREECE

Athens

In a disadvantaged neighbourhood near Athens, the Attica Schools refers to two public-private partnership contracts involving the design-build-finance-operation and maintenance of 24 school units located in Attica over 25 years. It addresses a population of 6500 students ([more info](#)).

CROATIA

Dalmatian Coast

Two local initiatives to boost youth entrepreneurship in a sparsely populated rural area. A future for those who choose to stay. A sustainable activity and outlets, making the most of local products.

- *Split: EkoBiz is aiming to attract more young people to organic entrepreneurship by raising awareness of the local opportunities in the industry ([more info](#)).*
- *Zadar: A research project is exploring new ways to process sour cherries, techniques pave the way for the future development of new food by local SMEs ([more info](#)).*

Prvić island

The new visitor centre displays models of Vrančić's numerous inventions, such as the parachute, olive mill and the chain suspension bridge. The centre also has an interactive multimedia exhibition that aims to display the brilliant mind of Vrančić through the inventive play of light and video displays ([more info](#)).

SLOVENIA

Istria

A former rail track has become a cycling route for recreational, tourism and culture purposes ([more info](#)).

THE ALPS (ITALY-FRANCE)

Improve the quality of life of populations and the sustainable development of territories through cooperation on the economy, the environment and services to citizens.

The Marguareis Highway

The 'Marguareis Highway' project has enabled the reuse of a route of particular historical and social value, which is also a road and tourist link between two countries (Italy and France) and three departments (Cuneo, Imperia, and Alpes-Maritimes). A road that has seen much history (former military road, tourist route and migratory flows ([more info](#)).

Chez soi – A casa

The 'Stay at home' project, on the French-Italian border around Monte Viso, aims to promote the safety of elderly people and offer home help in the region's most isolated alpine areas ([more info](#)).

FRANCE

Marseille

Hotel du Nord is a cooperative of inhabitants. Its aim is to promote the social value of heritage and enhance the neighbourhoods in which it mainly operates ([more info](#)).

The Lascaux Cave

The Lascaux Cave is the finest of all prehistoric painted caves made by Cro Magnons man. It is more than just a visit, it is about a reflection on the origins of humanity ([more info](#)).

Atlantic Road

Key words: Exploration, people, ocean, water, force, energy, resource, risk, waves, wind, sport, innovation

Common flavour: The spirit of adventures, great navigators. This time we leave the discovery of America and move to (re)discover the 'Old Continent'.

Starting point: Westernmost point of continental Europe, Cabo da Rocha (Portugal)

Point of arrival: Rotterdam (The Netherlands)



PORTUGAL

Coimbra

Behind the walls of one of the oldest academic institutions in Europe, the Coimbra University, is an innovation and incubation laboratory for the solutions of tomorrow. One of these gems is the Pedro Nunes Institute, named after a cartographer who made major advances in sea navigation during the Age of Discovery ([more info](#)).

Oliveira do Hospital

A local initiative to boost entrepreneurship among young people in a sparsely populated rural area. A future for those who choose to stay. A sustainable business and opportunities, making the best of the local products ([more info](#)).

Leixões

A few kilometres from Porto, the Porto Cruise Terminal is the largest project ever for opening the Port of Leixões to the city. It is an important gateway to the region, revitalising the area, attracting cruise ships and thus giving tourism of the region a significant boost ([more info](#)).

PORTUGAL & SPAIN

Cova da Beira in Portugal and the Spanish region of Castilla and León

Joint actions between these two regions to strengthen cross-border civil protection (road and rail accidents, fire prevention), thereby preserving the physical and environmental qualities of the territory ([more info](#)).

Chaves-Verin

Two countries, two cities, a community of interest that induces cultural, civic and economic cooperation ([more info](#)).

SPAIN

Santander

Learn more about the energy and mechanics behind the movement of the waves, tame their strength, and model their effects. A wave pool for spectacular simulations ([more info](#)).

FRANCE

Bergerac

Helping people in Dordogne to make progress in the digital field enable both individuals and businesses to find new income opportunities in rural areas ([more info](#)).

Iroise Marine Natural Park

The Iroise Marine Natural Park is a remarkable area boasting outstanding natural resources and playing host to traditional fishing activities. The cultural heritage is extremely varied and marked by majestic offshore lighthouses which make seafarers dream. ([more info](#)).

Mont St Michel

The Mont St-Michel stands in a bay with a remarkable landscape and ecosystem but is now facing a serious ecological threat. To face this, a new dam has been using the combined forces of tide and river water ([more info](#)).

FRANCE, BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS & UNITED-KINGDOM

English Channel & North Sea

With climate change, flooding will likely become more frequent and severe with damages in Europe, including the North. Therefore there is clear need to take proactive action to reduce the impacts of future flooding on our ecosystems, communities and economies ([more info](#)).

BELGIUM & NETHERLANDS

Flemish and Zeeland beaches

Sustainable and innovative improvement of the beaches and the coastal management along the Flemish-Zeeland coastline is at the heart of this action through cross-border awareness campaigns, renovation of beach rescue services and the development of safety, accessibility and accessibility on the coast ([more info](#)).

NETHERLANDS

Rotterdam

RDM's Innovation Dock is a center for innovation in the former shipyards of Rotterdam port where companies become part of an enterprising network of start-ups and R&D branches of established multinationals ([more info](#)).

Danube Road

Keywords: Nature, people, river, source, resource, links, heart, lung, basin, floor, inspiration, energy, confluence.

Common flavour: along the river, a trip to the geographical heart of Europe. Several countries, one river. Geopolitical issues that argue for a pooling of wills and resources (environment, energy, tourism, culture).

Starting point: Donaueschingen, Black Forest (Germany)

Point of arrival: Danube Delta (Romania-Ukraine)



UPPER DANUBE

Germany (Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria)

Saving the Danube Dinosaur: if the Danube sturgeon could talk, it would tell the story of the river. One more reason why it should not disappear completely. Increasingly rare in the wild, this fish with its prehistoric appearance is protected today as part of a broad European initiative ([more info](#)).

MIDDLE DANUBE

Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia

Three projects aiming at developing cooperation in various areas amongst the Member States concerned.

- *Turning the Danube into a tourist and cultural brand. That is what young members of the regional network DANURB are working on together ([more info](#)).*
- *When energy supplies become a geopolitical issue. In Central and Eastern Europe, energy dependence often depends on the past. Hence the interest in the geothermal potential hidden in the subsoil in the Danube region. The countries bordering the river are working together on creating shared geothermal reservoirs ([more info](#))*

- *The frequency and seriousness of extreme climatic events is increasing due to climate change. There are localities where flood is the predominant risk factor, whereas in other project territories, unforeseeable thunderstorms cause serious damages or frequent draughts cause damage to agriculture. Low level of awareness, weak preparedness and institutional gaps and weak territorial planning are common, horizontal challenges in those regions ([more info](#)).*

LOWER DANUBE

Calafat-Vidin bridge (RO-BG)

The waters of the Danube separate Romania and Bulgaria for almost 500 kilometres, yet until five years ago only one bridge crossed the river to connect the countries. This second bridge, replacing the ferryboats that used to link the two cities, was the fruition of a project between the two countries dating back to... 1925. This bridge now provides a timely road and rail connection between the two Member States ([more info](#)).

Gabrovo (BG): *Historically known for its citizens' mischievous sense of humour, beautiful nature and its textile, carpet and clothing industries, Gabrovo, situated in the centre of Bulgaria, has reinvented itself in recent years, winning the national 'Greenest city' and 'Best city to live in' prizes. ([more info](#)).*

Veliko Tarnovo (BG): *Famously known as the historical capital of the Second Bulgarian Empire and the City of Tsars throughout the Middle Ages, with its rich artistic, painting, literary and architectural heritage, the provincial town of Veliko Tarnovo has known a real revolution in recent years. Since 2007, 26 projects implemented to improve the environment, health infrastructure and increase tourism within the city ([more info](#)).*

Giurgiu (RO)

A multi-regional Romanian project is developing the entrepreneurial skills of 400 women and enhancing their employability. Women from Bucharest, Giurgiu, Oradea and Slatina are undergoing an intensive course to prepare them better for the labour market and help them in any subsequent career ([more info](#)).

Danube Delta Biosphere reserve (RO)

The Danube Delta is a unique habitat, with well over 300 bird species (many of them cannot be found elsewhere in Europe) and a rich wildlife. A bird sanctuary, the Danube Delta is the meeting place of migratory birds coming from Egypt and the Caucasus, from beyond Crimea or from Central and Northern Europe. Some species, like the pelicans, the small and the big egret, white or red doves and others were declared nature monuments ([more info](#)).

Baltic Road

Keywords: **History** and geography, people, East and West, around a sea (common asset), yesterday and today, walls and large spaces, war and peace, on track, solidarity, liberty

Common flavour: the route for seaside residents. They share a geography, but their history has divided them. Today they look to the future, often together, even if current challenges sometimes threaten the ongoing efforts and achievements of the past three decades.

Starting point: Rovaniemi (Finland)

Point of arrival: Berlin (Germany)



FINLAND – SWEDEN

Tornio-Haparanda

Two countries, two cities, a community of interest that induces cultural, civic and economic cooperation ([more info](#)).

FINLAND

The Ironcurtainrail

For almost half a century, Europe was forcibly divided into East and West by the "Iron Curtain", a border stretching from the Barents Sea to the Black Sea. The European cycle track Iron Curtain Trail invites people to retrace and experience this important part of the continent's history ([more info](#)).

Espoo

The pilot robot buses have been open and free for everyone, offering a concrete example of smarter mobility to daily life. ([more info](#)).

Helsinki

In a globalized world, it is increasingly important to be aware of both history and various interpretations about it, not to mention their influence on politics and events in the world today. As a response to these challenges, 'Historians without Borders' in Finland was founded in 2015. The purpose of the organization is to further public discussion about history and to promote the use of historical knowledge for peace-building and conflict-resolution ([more info](#)).

FINLAND & ESTONIA

Baltic Sea

Taking advantage of the Finnish experience helped to develop new volunteer maritime rescue services in Estonia. These make the central Baltic Sea region safer for both the country's own citizens and visitors from abroad ([more info](#)).

ESTONIA

Narva

One river, two countries, two cities: Narva in Estonia and Ivangorod from the Russian Federation. The twin fortresses situated on both sides of the Narva River was in the past a location of Swedish, German, Estonian and Russian influence; nowadays the site represents the border between the European Union and the Russian Federation. In autumn 2014 this was the setting for the first Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue ([more info](#)).

Muhu Island

A small island which manages to combine natural habitat restoration and the promotion of sustainable tourism ([more info](#)).

ESTONIA & LATVIA

Valga-Valka

The twin towns share a long history and were previously one municipality. When Estonia and Latvia joined the Schengen area in 2007, they essentially became a single urban region again ([more info](#)).

LATVIA

Liepāja

Liepāja has a long cultural and particularly musical tradition. The completion of the concert hall marks the establishment of Liepāja's new cultural quarter, and thus its cultural identity ([more info](#)).

Nigrande

Latvian family develops export company from a single colony of bees ([more info](#)).

LATVIA & LITHUANIA

Latvia's Zemgale region and Šiauliai and Panevėžys counties in Lithuania

Throughout most of the 20th century, the Baltic countries have had to endure successive ill-treatment from White Russia, Nazism, Soviet Communism... Today these young democracies are working together to raise their profile. Between Lithuania and Latvia, a network of artisan-entrepreneurs combine tradition and modernity, while keeping alive the memory of these regions ([more info](#)).

POLAND

Gdansk

- *The revitalisation of the Lower Town district was made possible through the creation of a broad coalition of social partners such as local communities, artists, NGOs and businesses in order to fight social segregation ([more info](#)).*
- *The European Solidarity Centre: a dedicated museum, library and research centre will preserve the heritage of the freedom movement that was born in the city ([more info](#)).*

GERMANY

Potsdam

Via individual coaching, migrants are helped to establish their own businesses ([more info](#)).

Berlin

Offering local people the opportunity to take decisions about their own neighbourhoods can help transform deprived city areas into more agreeable places to live. Berlin's Neighbourhood Management programme has proved that this approach works, by sharing responsibility for local development with Neighbourhood Councils ([more info](#)).