

**EUROPEAN
DRYSTONE
NETWORK**

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PREPARING A EUROPEAN DRY STONE HERITAGE ROUTE

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 : JANUARY 2020



EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first newsletter of the European Dry Stone Network Association. On the initiative of the Council of Mallorca seven organisations from seven different European countries: Cyprus, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom came together in Mallorca in October 2018 to establish an association to work together to present a proposal to the Council of Europe for the creation of a cultural route to celebrate and promote the varied dry stone heritage of the project partners. Following the meeting in Mallorca when the statutes of the Association were agreed, the partners are now working together on the different elements of a proposal to submit to the Council of Europe. The aim of this newsletter will be to introduce the project partners and subsequent newsletters will draw attention to the work of the Association in drawing up a proposal for a cultural route and to showcase the work of the partners to promote the dry stone heritage of their areas.

www.drystoneroute.eu

FOUNDER MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION:

- Departament de Medi Ambient - Consell Insular de Mallorca (Balearic Islands, Spain)
- Office de l'Environnement de la Corse (OEC), Corsica, France
- 4 Grada Dragodid, Croatia
- Parco Nazionale delle Cinque Terre, Liguria, Italy)
- Perifereiaki Enosi Dimon Ipirou (PED Epirus), Greece
- Department of Town Planning and Housing, Cyprus
- Gatehouse Development Initiative (GDI), Scotland, United Kingdom)

PROJECT PROGRESS

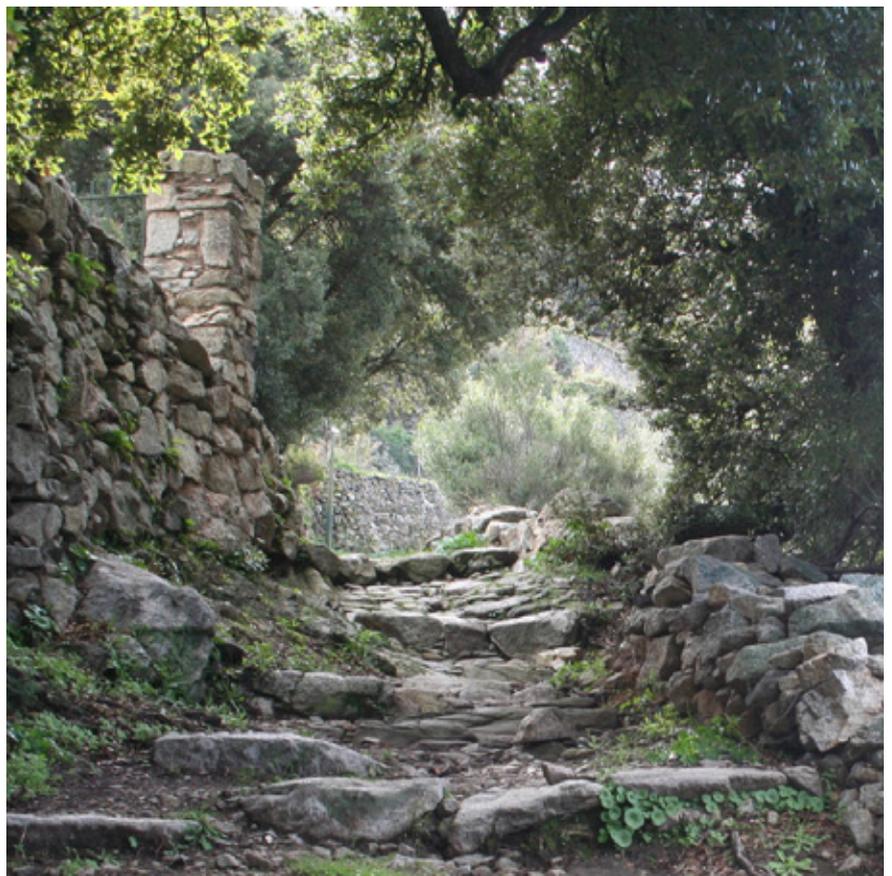
At the meeting in Mallorca an action plan was agreed and tasks were divided up between the partners. These were progressed at a second meeting of the Association which took place in Bastia, Corsica at the beginning of April 2019 and a third meeting in Cinque Terre, Italy in November 2019. These tasks are:

- Cooperation in research and development. Responsible partner: 4Grada Dragodid
- Enhancement of memory, history and European heritage. Responsible partner: OEC
- Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans. Responsible partner: Department of Town Planning and Housing
- Contemporary cultural and artistic practice. Responsible partner: PED Epirus
- Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development. Responsible partner: PN Cinque Terre
- Website and social media. This activity will be coordinated by GDI, OEC and Consell Insular de Mallorca.

AIMS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The project for a European dry stone heritage route is based on the idea that travelling through dry stone landscapes, living in them and feeling part of them, is the key to preserving them. The Association seeks to promote discovery tours, activities for children and young people, dry stone training, exchanges between dry stone builders, multidisciplinary scientific research activities, as well as the participation of local communities as a living part of the heritage.

The Association is focusing its efforts on creating the route and preparing the application for the "Council of Europe Cultural Route" designation. Following the Council of Europe's Cultural Routes approach, our route is conceived as a co-operation project aimed at promoting heritage awareness, education, networking, responsible cross-border tourism and other related activities. It seeks to contribute to the promotion of European identity and citizenship through knowledge and awareness of Europe's common heritage and the development of cultural links and dialogue in Europe as well as with other countries and regions.



DRY STONE ACTIVITIES IN THE PARTNER AREAS

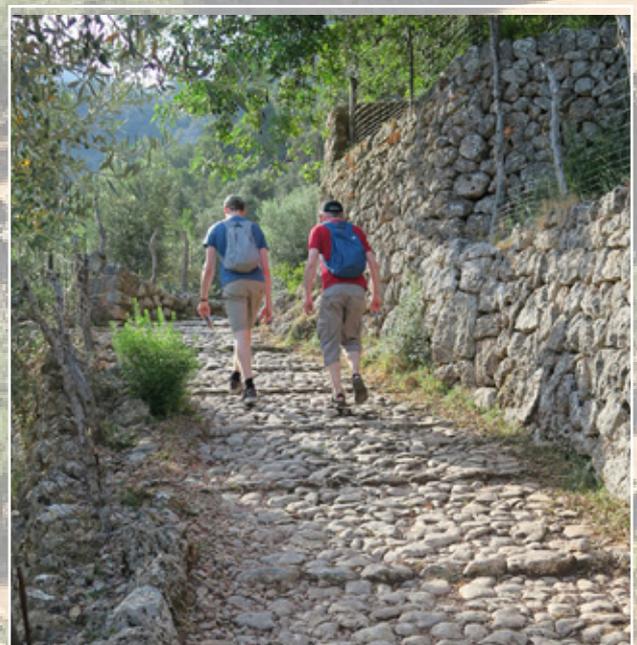
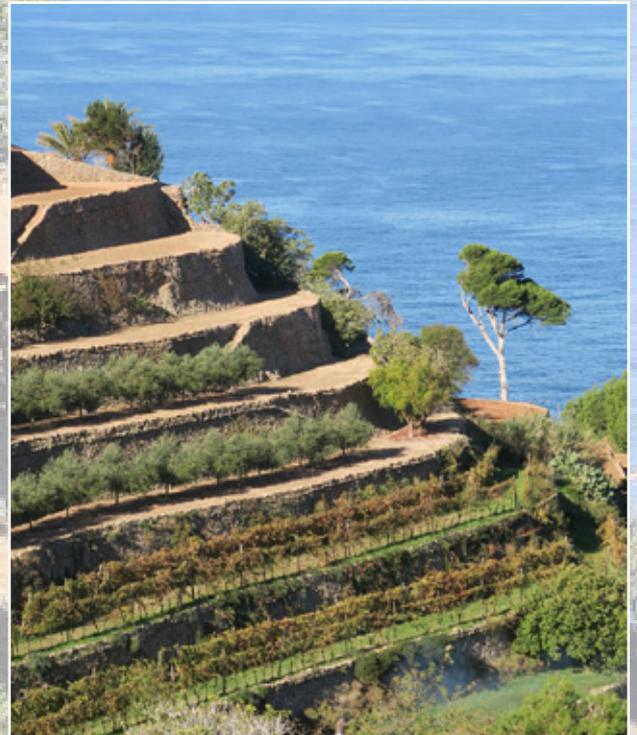
The partners are all undertaking dry stone activities in their areas. For instance, the Environment Department of the Council of Mallorca organised training sessions on building retaining walls every Saturday in May. They also organised an educational workshop for 30 primary school pupils on the Dry Stone Route GR221. In Ano Pedina in Greece a dry stone walling day was organised in the context of the Erasmus+ Eco-management project, which is concerned with passing on traditional skills from those with know-how to young people. Eleven young people and 3 experts took part in the training day. As part of the same project seven forestry apprentices took part in a five day wall building course in Gatehouse of Fleet in Scotland and during the Association visit to Corsica partners visited an important path project in the hills above Bastia. The following sections introduce the project partners.

MEET THE PARTNERS

CONSELL INSULAR DE MALLORCA - SPAIN

The island of Mallorca is a region with high variety and density of dry stone constructions, especially in the Serra de Tramuntana mountains, where man with the help of dry stone shaped an imposing cultural landscape. Dry stone terraces built to allow the growing of olive trees are the most iconic feature. For all this heritage, this natural area was included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 2011.

In this context, the Department of Sustainability and Environment of Consell de Mallorca has more than 30 years of experience in recovering, protecting and enhancing dry stone heritage and traditional craft of dry stone walling around Mallorca. This approach led to restoration of ancient mountain paths and then to the creation of a large network of hiking itineraries. Most of them are part of the Ruta de Pedra en Sec GR 221, a long trail that links both sides of Serra de Tramuntana mountain range.

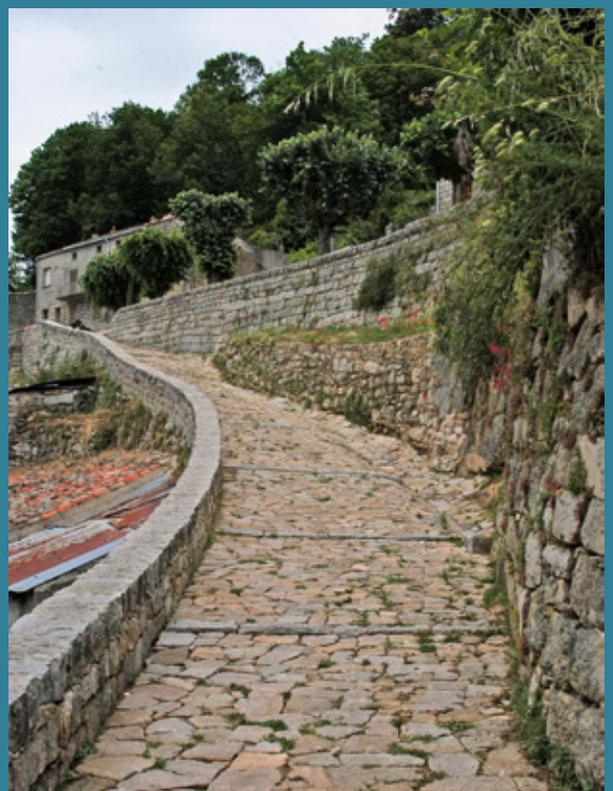
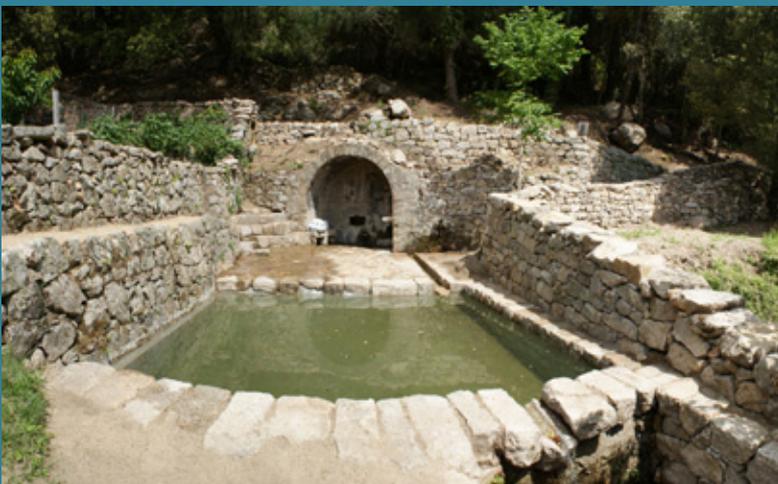
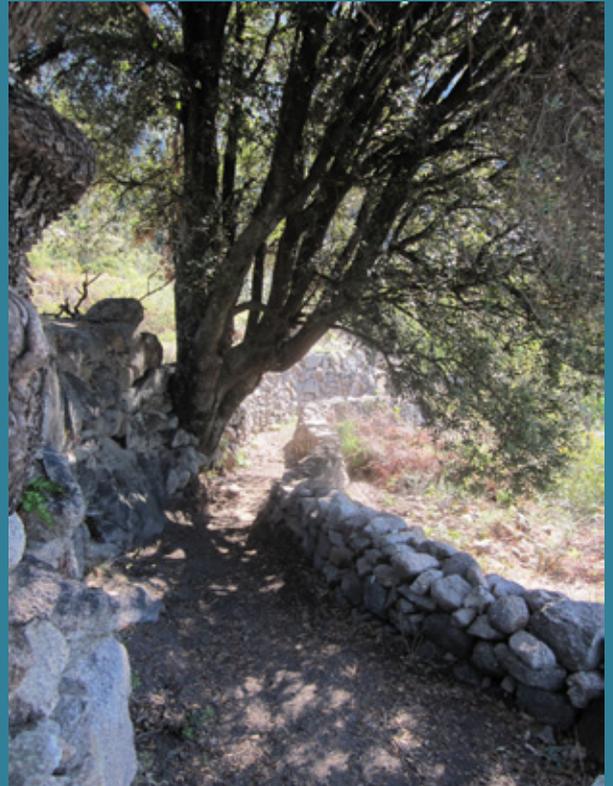


THE OFFICE OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF CORSICA - FRANCE

The Office of the Environment of Corsica has been working for many years to promote the island's unprotected rural heritage: dry stone walls, cultivated terraces, fountains, chapels, ovens, etc. In Corsica, thanks to the commitment of the Office of the Environment, dry stone techniques have enabled tourist areas to create a structured offer at the economic and cultural level.

Corsica suffers from a poorly controlled tourism which is difficult to graft onto a collapsed traditional economy. In this context, the initiative of the Office of the Environment is aimed at better integrating tourism by promoting and sharing a heritage that is otherwise destined to be abandoned.

The concept of "Heritage Trails", short discovery routes with high heritage added value, makes it possible to make better use of villages where visitors were previously only passing through. These trails make it possible, at the village level, to link together strong elements of the heritage using different themes: history, ethnography, architecture, botany. This is the best type of tourist investment because of the strong links.



4 GRADA DRAGODID - CROATIA

Civil society organisation dedicated to research and reactivation of dry stone building technique as the basis for sustainable development and environmental protection and the protection of material and intangible cultural heritage. The association was founded in 2007 but its beginnings date back to 2002 when the first international drystone workshop was held in the village of Dragodid near Komiža in Vis. Today we operate in various localities along the Croatian coast - the headquarters of the association is in Šapjane near Rijeka, and the main workshop in the village of Petrebišća on Učka. The main activities of the association are the organization and conduct of drystone workshops and conducting research on drystone heritage in collaboration with local partners, practitioners of drystone construction and experts in local traditions.



DEPARTMENT OF TOWN PLANNING AND HOUSING, MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR - CYPRUS



The responsibilities of the Department include spatial and urban planning, development control, cultural heritage conservation, planning, coordination and implementation of urban and infrastructure projects, and implementation of housing policy.

The aim of the Cultural Heritage Conservation Section of the Department of Town Planning and Housing is the preservation of the cultural heritage of Cyprus. Preservation policy includes the protection, preservation and rehabilitation of the architectural and cultural heritage of Cyprus, in

accordance with the relevant legislation. This is achieved mainly through the legal protection of special interest traditional/historic buildings /structures and trees and the contribution to the rehabilitation/conservation of Listed Buildings (management of financial and other incentives and monitoring of rehabilitation works). The Department is also responsible for the protection of cultural landscapes and historic settlements. This is achieved through spatial planning and the relevant provisions of the Development Plans prepared in the Department. The Development Plans also include guidelines for the development of properties within their historic context or in cultural landscapes.

THE CINQUE TERRE NATIONAL PARK - ITALY

The Cinque Terre National Park (5TNP) comprises the five coastal villages of Riomaggiore, Manarola, Corniglia, Vernazza and Monterosso Al Mare, located within a 15km coastal strip north of La Spezia on the west-facing Riviera di Levante on the coast of Liguria Region, Italy. The Cinque Terre National Park area represents one of the most impressive examples of coastal terraced landscape in the Mediterranean and is internationally known for these landscapes shaped by centuries of agricultural exploitation carried out in balance with the surrounding area. Historically, management of the vineyards has been mainly based on traditional approaches. This cultural landscape represents the interaction between physical environment, people and culture. Terraces and dry stone walls which aim to optimise soil moisture to maximise year round agricultural production reflect the harmonious interaction of people and landscape, which is simultaneously the site of agriculture, maintenance of 'biodiversity', landscape stabilisation and tradition, all for the economic benefit and social wellbeing of current and future generations. The aim of the 5TNP authority is to set actions and strategies not only to reduce hydrogeological risk, but also to increase economic benefits from rural activities and maintain local agriculture activity.



PED EPIRUS - GREECE

The REGIONAL UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF EPIRUS (PED Epirus) is a not for profit organisation of Greek local authorities. Stone structures are a “trademark” of the Epirus region. Traditional (stone) settlements, bridges and dry stone structures, both ancient and modern, constitute our natural and human environment. We have a duty to preserve this particular environment and, above all, to highlight it. As an important element of our cultural and tourism product, it must be an element of the sustainable environmental management of our area. Our organisation has been systematically engaged in the preservation and enhancement of the landscape and stone buildings. In the framework of European projects it has implemented many transnational projects (stone bridges, traditional settlements, stone and tradition, promotion of mountain areas and their characteristics, traditional stone construction techniques, training of young people in dry stone construction etc.). PED Epirus manages information systems, conducts workshops, conferences and seminars on the subject. It has published works on the inventory and promotion of stone monuments. Finally, it coordinates collaboration networks of national, regional and local bodies (local government, universities, education and training structures, professional bodies, local and voluntary organizations, etc.), with the aim of promoting such techniques and exploiting them for tourism and environmental sustainability.



GATEHOUSE OF FLEET - SCOTLAND

Dry stone walls, or drystone dykes as they are known in Scotland, are an important landscape feature in south west Scotland dividing the countryside into a patchwork of fields. During the 18th century changes in agricultural practices led to the introduction of farm steadings and fields to create the landscape we recognise today. The construction of dykes made from stone was seen as an efficient way to divide the countryside and control livestock. By the 1930s post and wire fencing was fast becoming the economic alternative to drystone dykes and it was feared that the craft of dyke building was disappearing. In 1968 the Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain was founded at Gatehouse, an organisation which continues to advance education in the craft and heritage of dry stone walling for the public benefit. Today there is a renewed enthusiasm for drystone dyking with an upsurge in interest in a rural craft that continues to be in demand by landowners - a sustainable boundary which can use and reuse the stone employed to build the original construction.



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