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## A1.1 Kick-off Meeting Report

**Action Name:** 'Italy, Greece and Turkey on Foot: A European Culture Route Linking Turkey to Italy'

A 1.1 Kick-off Meeting activity took place between 16-18 April 2019 at Milport Hotel in Istanbul.

The aim of the meeting was to introduce all the stakeholders of the action to each other and define the roles and responsibilities of each co-applicant and associates. Therefore, all the participants had been asked via email to include the following in their presentations:

Routes:

- Ancient roads their route follows (if any);
- Short information about the historic sites along their route;
- The condition of their route (waymarking, signposting, grade of walking, etc.);
- The users of their route (who, how many, where do they stay/camp?, etc.);
- The local people along their route (description, attitudes, economic effects of the route, etc.);
- Recognition of their route by public authorities (permissions, registrations, conservation measures, etc.)

Organisations:

- Foundation date/place/membership;
- Vision and/or mission;
- Other projects and partners (if any);
- Organisational expectations (how this project would help the organisation)

They had also been asked to bring the following materials in 2 copies for the management and scientific committees:

- Maps and/or guide books;
- GPS waypoints or tracks (as .kml files);
- List of smart phone apps for their trail or apps that include their trail (if any);
- List of their website, facebook pages, blogs or any other social media sites;
- List of links to any recent publicity or other publications about their trail (e.g. guidebooks that include their trail);
- Any scientific / archaeological research on their trail;
- Information about traditional crafts, foods, festivals on or close to the route

The meeting was divided into three days and each day had different agenda, which is summarised below:

**Day 1: Internal Meeting - 16 April 2019 Tuesday; start at 10:00 / lunch at 13:00 / Finish at 16:00**

**Participants:** Hüseyin Eryurt (Turkish Project coordinator, CRS), Kate Clow (chairperson of CRS), İrem Zararsız (Turkish Project administrator, CRS), Theodoros Trachanidis (Greek Project coordinator, TYE), Luca Bruschi (Italian Project coordinator, EAVF), Elena Dubinina (Management committee head), Jeremy Alan Pine (Scientific committee head).

The first day of the meeting started at 10:00 and the core project team and partners discussed the project implementation requirements, reporting, etc.

Initially, Hüseyin Eryurt and İrem Zararsız who attended Project implementation training between 9-12 April 2019 in Ankara, gave general information about the Civil Society Dialogue programme and its technical and practical





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requirements, which were introduced during the training. The two project staff shared the grant implementation and procurement manuals with the co-applicant project coordinators and then used 'the CSD C SSP Grant Implementation Training' powerpoint presentation file approved by CFCU. According to that, the participants were informed about the programme rules on budget allocations, financial documentation, responsibilities of the main applicant and co-applicants, general eligibility criteria, monthly reporting of Human Resources, mandatory filing requirements, etc. The Turkish Project administrator explained in detail the budget headings and relevant rules on that while the Turkish Project coordinator went through the activity plan with the core Project team. All the relevant minor change requests to be shared with the contracting authority were specified and noted. The two committee heads contributed to the activity revisions according to next activities' plans related to the submission of the dossier to the EICR.

The first day of the meeting ended around 16:00.

### Day 2: Itinerary meeting - 17 April 2019 Wednesday

Participants: Luca Bruschi (EAVF), Theodoros Trachanadis (TYE), Elena Dubinina (head of management committee), Jeremy Pine (head of the scientific committee), Hüseyin Eryurt (CRS), Kate Clow (CRS), Holger de Bruin (VEF), Sedat Çakır (STF), Caroline Finkel (Hiking Istanbul, Evliya Çelebi Yolu, CRS), Furkan Yavuz (Tolerance Way), İrem Zararsız (CRS), Nick Hobbs (Hiking Istanbul), Oytun Güventürk (Hiking Istanbul), Songül Sonal (Phrygian Way).

The second day of the meeting was reserved for itinerary descriptions.

Following an introduction by the Turkish project coordinator about the CSD 5 programme and the current action, Kate Clow from CRS gave a 30 min. talk on the new proposed route, which was initiated during the CSD 4 action named 'Europe to Turkey on Foot'. According to that, the c.5400 km cross-border itinerary includes Via Francigena (England-France-Switzerland-Italy), Via Egnatia (Albania-Northern Macedonia-Greece-Turkey), Sultans Trail (within Turkey Edirne-Istanbul), Tolerance Way (İzmit), Evliya Çelebi Way (Bursa-Kütahya-Afyonkarahisar), Mysia Ways (Bursa-Nilüfer), St Paul Trail (Isparta-Antalya) and the Lycian Way (Antalya) while the following routes are subject to being alternative itineraries to the main route: Hiking İstanbul (İstanbul), Phrygian Way (Afyon-Kütahya). The first presentation by Ms. Clow ended up with an interactive workshop where participants first discussed the strong elements of Via Eurasia and then worked on maps to specify the condition of their routes, the areas where further work was required and the work needed in joining sections of route together. This encouraged team bonding and the workshop resulted with the following outstanding elements of the route: history, traditional architecture, modern architecture and art, landscape/views, variety, gastronomy, local interaction/hospitality, minimal asphalt/dirt road/firebreaks, accessibility (start-end), cultural exchange, water, access to food, average walker, etc.

The rest of the morning session of the second day went on with route descriptions (see the meeting program and presentations). A short movie which was produced as part of the previous action during the CSD 4 programme was also shared with the participants to give an idea about one section of the Via Eurasia (St Paul Trail). Finally, the afternoon session concluded with a 2 hour discussion led by Elena Dubinina and Jeremy Pine, who explained the criteria by the council of Europe to certify a cultural route and the content of two reports required for submitting an application for accreditation. They also informed the participants about the contribution needed from each route and stakeholder. (see the presentations). Legal formation of route management organisation was also discussed at the end of the meeting, which finished at around 16:00.

### Day 3: Organisational Meeting - 18 April 2019 Thursday

Participants: Luca Bruschi (EAVF), Theodoros Trachanadis (TYE), Elena Dubinina (head of management committee), Jeremy Pine (head of the scientific committee), Hüseyin Eryurt (CRS), Kate Clow (CRS), Holger de Bruin (VEF), Sedat





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Çakır (STF), Caroline Finkel (Hiking Istanbul, Evliya Çelebi Yolu, CRS), Furkan Yavuz (Tolerance Way), İrem Zararsız (CRS), Nick Hobbs (Hiking Istanbul), Oytun Güventürk (Hiking Istanbul), Mehmet Şevket Verit (İzmit Municipality), Mithat Ağa (İzmit Municipality), Gözde Sarıcan (Edirne Municipality), Eirini Yalçın (Nilüfer Municipality), Valerie Ball (volunteer).

The final day of the Kick-off meeting started with a 30 min presentation by the Turkish Project coordinator, who first gave a detailed introduction about the CSD4 project and its activities and explained how the story of Via Eurasia started with EAVF and different associates. He then introduced the current action and new activities to take place in the coming months. The second talk was given by Elena Dubinina who previously worked for the EICR within the Council of Europe. Based on her professional experience, she explained how the programme initiated and grew in more than 30 years. The morning session continued with short talks from all the partners and associates about the past and current works their organisations have done (see the presentations).

After the lunch break, participants had the chance to learn best practice implementations of EAVF on promoting a European cultural route. CRS also presented a previous Project, which proved socio-economic benefits of cultural routes. These two presentations were supported by short films.

Finally, the Turkish Project coordinator and Project financial administrator worked on the Activity Plan of the action and had input from the participants on coordination and timing of the next activities. The kick-off meeting ended successfully around 17:00.

