



Presentation of
VIA QUERINISSIMA, FROM MYTH TO HISTORY
The cultural itinerary to be nominated for the Council of Europe (CoE)

“Via Querinissima, from myth to history” is an international non-profit cultural association that was formally established last June, after a long process started a decade ago with a bilateral friendship agreement between the Municipality of Røst (Norway) and the Municipality of Sandrigo (Vicenza, Italy) followed by a bilateral agreement of cultural and economic collaboration between the Region of Nordland (Norway) and the Veneto Region (Italy). The inspiration behind this association, gradually extended over time to other European realities, was the journey with the shipwreck and the unexpected return to the homeland of the nobleman and Venetian merchant Pietro Querini. He, in a somewhat fortunous way, between the Mediterranean and the North Seas, lived an extraordinary experience between 1431 and 1432.

History

Pietro Querini, a patrician and Venetian merchant, on April 25 in 1431, left the moorings of Candia with its Cocca “Querina” and 68 men on board. He brought with himself a cargo of 800 barrels of Malvasia, and spices, wax, alum of rock, wood and other merchandise. He started what would have been one of the most impressive sea trips indeed after a fortunous and dramatic shipwreck, together with only 16 crew members, he landed on the Sandøya island in the archipelago of the Lofoten Islands, well beyond the polar circle: Querini was rescued by fishermen on the island of Røst who welcomed him to their village where he stayed for three months and 11 days before taking the road back to Venice. On the island of Røst the shipwreckers discovered the customs of that community, that had welcomed them in solidarity, and they saw, among other things, for the first time, a fish dried in the air, hard like wood, which the Norwegians called “stokkfisk”, or “stick fish”, what in Veneto is still called “baccalà”.

There are two separate reports of that extraordinary adventure, one wrote by Pietro Querini and kept in two manuscript copies in the Vatican Apostolic Library and in the Marciana Library of Venice. The other was written by two officers on board, Cristoforo Fioravanti and Nicolò di Michiel, and is kept in the Marciana National Library of Venice collected by the Florentine humanist Antonio di Corrado de Cardini. Very interesting echoes of the Querinian epic are also present in the nautical charts of the time, as in the Atlas of Andrea Bianco, 1436, which signals “stocfis” in the Lofoten area, and in the famous globe of fra' Mauro (1457-1459), which writes:

- the presence of a stable scientific committee made up of university professors who give strength to the itinerary from a scientific point of view.

In this case, our cultural itinerary — which is not physically traced at the moment — lends itself to analyses ranging from the historical, cultural, touristic, archaeological point of view, but also from the economic, managerial and tourist-cultural perspective.

Who are the founding partners

- Veneto Region (Italy) — with the participation of the Regional Council
- Nordland Region (Norway)
- Vastra Gotaland Region (Sweden)
- Municipality of Cádiz (Spain)
- Port System Authority of the North Adriatic Sea (Italy)
- Proloco Sandrigo (Italy)
- Confraternita del baccalà (Italy)
- CERS — Consortium for historical re-enactments (Italy)

Individuals who have expressed an interest in joining

- Municipality of Røst — interested in joining
- City of Bødø — interested in joining
- UNPLI (National Union Pro Loco d'Italia — Provincial Committee of Vicenza)- interested in joining
- Heraklion Development Agency
- Region of Crete
- Municipality of Sandrigo

Will be contacted the stages travelled and described in the Diary but also countries and institutions related by thematic area.

The Potential of the Itinerary

Via Querinissima meets many routes already recognised by the Council of Europe as well as being the first route with a sea route.

Obtaining the “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” certification is a guarantee of excellence.

The networks carry out innovative activities and projects within five priority areas of action: *cooperation in the field of research and development; enhancement of European memory, history and heritage; cultural and*

educational exchanges for young Europeans; contemporary artistic and cultural practices; cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development.

Through this Programme, the Council of Europe offers a transnational cultural and tourism management model and fosters synergies between national, regional and local authorities and a wide range of associations and socio-economic actors.

To implement and develop the Programme in 1998 the **European Institute of Cultural Routes (IEIC) was established as part of** a political agreement between the Council of Europe and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The Convention regulates the action of this institution in the 49 signatory countries, and according to the geographical and historical need of the themes, in the countries that have had and still have direct relations with the European continent.

The Scientific Committee of Via Querinissima from myth to history

Steinar Aas	(Contemporary History, Bodo University)
Antonello Alici	(Architecture, Polytechnic University of Marche),
Silvia Beltramo	(Architecture, Turin University),
Massimo Bustreo	(Work Psychology, IULM, Milan)
Andrea Caracausi	(Economic History, University of Padua)
Ludovica Galeazzo	(Architectural History, University of Padua)
Iosif Klironomos	(Computer Engineer, Foundation for Research & Technology — Hellas (FORTH),
Claire Judde de Larivière	(Venetian History, Toulouse University),
Rolv Petter Amdam	(Economic History, BI Oslo Business School)
Stefania Montemezzo	(Renaissance Studies, I Tatti, The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance studies)
Nicola Orio	(Computer Engineer, University of Padua)
Luca Quaratino	Business, Law, Economics and Consumption Faculty of Arts and Tourism — IULM
Clear Angerous	(Tourism Geography, University of Padua)
Miguel Tain Guzman	(Professor of History of Art, University of Santiago de Compostela)
Elena Svalduz	(Architectural History, University of Padua)

The Scientific Committee is appointed by the Steering Committee and is constantly evolving, is not bound to territorial or thematic limits.

Who are the members of Via Querinissima

(Article 3 of the Staff Regulations)

The Association consists of:

Founding associates: those who have signed this Constitutive Act. They pay the annual contribution and have the right to vote in the Assembly of Associates;

Ordinary associates: those who joined at a date after the establishment of the Association. They pay an annual contribution, and have the right to vote in the Assembly of Associates;

Honorary Associates: those who have acquired particular merits for their work in favour of the Association and/or who participate in the work of the Scientific Committee or who have distinguished themselves culturally and scientifically; they are appointed by deliberation of the Assembly of Associates on a proposal from the Governing Council and are not subject to the payment of membership fees or company fees.

Friends of the Via Querinissima: natural or legal persons, public or private, who participate in associative projects that promote and contribute to the enhancement and development, including commercial, of the Cultural Route “Via Querinissima”. These entities pay a fee at the time of joining the association and undertake to support the implementation of the associative projects of interest. Although they do not have the right to vote in the General Assembly, they may propose ideas and projects in accordance with the procedures laid down in the General Rules of the Association.

Article 4 — Admission and number of associates

The number of members is unlimited.

Individuals, bodies and public and private associations who share the aims of the association and who participate in the activities of the association with their work, skills and knowledge may join the association.

Admission is deliberated by the Shareholders’ Meeting on a proposal from the Board of Directors. Admission is finalised to the payment of the relevant social quotas.

The company’s share

The Shareholders’ Meeting deliberated:

Membership fee EUR 500,00

From second year — annual quoted 500,00

Website under construction

And temporary mail:

product.info.viaquerinissima@gmail.com