

European Federation of Napoleonic Cities

Destination Napoleon

Activity Report
2021 - 2022



FÉDÉRATION
EUROPÉENNE
DES CITÉS NAPOLÉONIENNES



Cultural route
of the Council of Europe
Itinéraire culturel
du Conseil de l'Europe





Activity Report 2021 - 2022

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OUR NETWORK

Founded in 2004 by Charles Bonaparte, the European Federation of Napoleonic Cities (FECN) brings together more than 50 European cities whose history has been marked by Napoleonic influence.

It is the result of the desire of municipalities to place their Napoleonic historical heritage in its European dimension. The cross-reading of particularly important and contrasting pages of the history of the countries of Europe is intended to be a major contribution to the common culture of the peoples and to the definition of our shared heritage.

In 2015, the European dimension of its work was recognised through the certification as a "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" of Destination Napoleon, an itinerary for the promotion and connection of Napoleonic heritage.

Since its certification, the FECN-Destination Napoleon has been subject to a regular evaluation of its activities every three years. The evaluation aims to verify that the FECN and its members operate in accordance with the certification criteria established by the Council of Europe. The network has been under evaluation since autumn 2022, and is expected to be recertified by the Council of Europe in spring 2023.

Members

The European Federation of Napoleonic Cities brings together actors in the field of cultural tourism, art and education who wish to promote and disseminate Napoleon's legacy. As its name indicates, it brings together mainly cities, but is also open to the membership of other public or semi-public structures.

In 2021, two Italian cities joined the Federation, Finale Ligure and Lucca, followed in 2022 by the city of Herceg Novi in Montenegro and Slunj in Croatia. See the full list of members at the end of this chapter.



Partners

FECN-Destination Napoleon signs partnership agreements with stakeholders active in different fields, such as education, research, local development, to run specific projects.

The following are currently partners of the FECN-Destination Napoleon:

- Comitato per il Bicentenario Napoleonico 1821-2021 (IT)
- Centro di Documentazione Ville Reali Lombarde (IT)
- Liceo Parini de Seregno (IT)
- Acqua Fonte Napoleone - Île d'Elbe (IT)

The FECN-Destination Napoleon also signs agreements with Universities to host interns, who work with the team members on regular assignments as well as on specific aspects and activities, in line with their academic path. Within this framework, in 2021-22 the FECN hosted Arianna Duri, a student at the University of Bologna (IT).

The Federation in figures

Founded in 2004 by Charles Bonaparte, French association under the 1901 law since 2005.

9 founding cities.

51 member cities in 11 countries in 2022.

Certified as a Council of Europe Cultural Route in 2015.

35 partner museums in 9 countries.

More than 6'000 followers on social networks.

On average, 1'600 website's visits every month.

Members' list

BELGIUM

Braine l'Alleud
Fleurus
Sombrefe
Wavre (until 2022)

CROATIA

Brela
Mali Losinj
Milna
Orebic
Petrinja
Slunj (since 2022)

FRANCE

Ajaccio
Autun
Bocognano
Calvi
Colpo
Corte
Coudekerque-Branche
Grasse
Île d'Aix (until 2021)
La-Roche-sur-Yon

Montereau-Fault-Yonne

Paris
Pontivy
Rueil-Malmaison
Le Souvenir Napoléonien
(association)

GERMANY

Jena
Hövelhof
Hanau
Grossbeeren

GREECE

Corfou

ITALY

Albenga
Cosseria
Finale Ligure (since 2021)
Loano
Mantova
Sarzana
Lucca (since 2021)
Portoferraio

MONTENEGRO

Herceg Novi (since 2022)

POLAND

Bolesławiec
Lidzbark Warminski
Pułtusk

PORTUGAL

Historical Route of the Lines of
Torres Vedras
Almeida

SPAIN

Aranjuez
Ciudad Rodrigo
Uclés
Lerma
Vitoria-Gasteiz

UNITED-KINGDOM

Plymouth

FECN – DESTINATION NAPOLEON’S ACTIVITIES

In 2021, the [Bicentenary of Napoleon's death](#) was an opportunity for the European Federation of Napoleonic Cities – Destination Napoleon, Cultural Route certified by the Council of Europe, to give visibility to the network through the activities and initiatives proposed by the member cities and territories across Europe. The activities carried out allowed to strengthen the synergies between territories, to make the Federation's actions known at different levels, to promote its values and the European and multiperspective narrative offered by Destination Napoleon. All the activities carried out on this occasion were labelled by the Federation's Scientific Committee, and were recognisable through the use of the dedicated logo.

A new federative initiative was also created, which continued in 2022: the European Destination Napoleon Week. From now on, this event will be held every year, with the aim of bringing together the member cities around common dates that promote Napoleonic heritage. The Week always takes place at the beginning of May, including both the anniversary of Napoleon's death (5 May) and Europe Day (9 May). It was the occasion to inaugurate the first online exhibition with Europeana on the theme of urbanism in the 19th century, an initiative that will be repeated during the next European weeks.

Visibility

Destination Napoleon logo

"Destination Napoleon" is a European Cultural Route certified by the Council of Europe. Created and managed by the European Federation of Napoleonic Cities, the cultural route provides the connection between the various members and their heritage tangible. As such, the common visibility of the entire network is ensured by the use of the logo.



Website

During 2021, a new version of the website was launched. Enriched with interactive maps, it lists the heritage of the member cities and territories in order to create proposals for urban itineraries. Since its launch in March 2021, more than 33,000 people have visited the site.

More information: www.destination-napoleon.eu

Social networks

The visibility of the FECN-Destination Napoleon is also ensured through social networks, in particular Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Specific activities are organised to engage the followers of the FECN-Destination Napoleon pages, such as the competition organised from 3 to 13 June 2021 in cooperation with Éditions du Rocher and aimed at winning a copy of the book "Napoléon, les derniers témoins racontent" by David Chanteranne. In 2021, the Federation's Youtube channel was also created, bringing together the series of online webinars held that year, the Destination Napoleon Talks.

Facebook, Instagram, Youtube: @destinationnapoleon
Twitter : @destinapoleon

Communication tools

On the occasion of the bicentenary, a new leaflet was also published in 2021. It is available in French, German, Spanish, Italian, Polish and Croatian.

More information: <https://www.destination-napoleon.eu/visibilite/>

Blogger's trip

In August 2021, Lionel Tardy, columnist for Historia Games, toured several member cities of the European Federation of Napoleonic Cities, posting his stops on his social networks. Guided by members and local partners of the Federation, such as mayors or tourist offices, his tour was an opportunity to rediscover the cities of La-Roche-sur-Yon, Pontivy, Paris, Rueil-Malmaison, Autun, as well as the Route Napoléon on the French Riviera.

More information: <https://www.destination-napoleon.eu/tour-de-france-des-cites-napoleoniennes/>

Co-operation in research and development

One of the main orientations of the FECN-Destination Napoleon is to promote exchanges on Napoleonic history by organising meetings, colloquia and publications in conjunction with universities, cultural institutions and history associations.

Within this framework, FECN - Destination Napoleon organises and takes part in numerous meetings, such as the one organised on 13 December 2021, a **webinar dedicated to Lithuanian cities** held in cooperation with M Alfredas Jomantas, Head of the Cultural Heritage Department of the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture. The meeting was an opportunity for the hundred or so participants from different Lithuanian municipalities to learn more about Napoleon's legacy in Lithuania and the possibilities of cooperation with the FECN-Destination Napoleon.

The Federation also participates in many meetings held by external partners, such as the one organised on 11 February 2021 concerning the strategy for a common communication for all **Cultural routes in Germany**.

Bicentenary Brand 2021: the role of the Scientific Committee

During 2021, the EFN-Destination Napoleon created a specific brand to ensure the visibility of events and activities organised during the bicentenary of Napoleon's death. The brand was used by members and by organisations that requested it through an online form.

The Scientific Committee had the role of reviewing applications received prior to the granting of the mark, and was also involved in the Destination Napoleon Talks, a series of online public webinars.



More information on the Bicentenary : <https://www.destination-napoleon.eu/bicentenaire-2021/>

Spotlight on our members

Petrinja Linden trees, Croatia

On the occasion of the European Heritage Days, two Linden trees were planted on the morning of 20 October 2022 in front of the Vrata Zrinske Gore Ecological Centre in Petrinja by H.E. Gael Veyssiere, Ambassador of France to Croatia, and Mrs Magdalena Komes, Mayor of Petrinja.

Genetically cloned by the Croatian Forest Research Institute from those planted in the Petrinja municipal park during the Napoleonic era of the Illyrian Provinces, these Linden trees express the ties of Franco-Croatian friendship and the town's cultural and ecological commitment. They also symbolise the building of a resilient future following the earthquake of 2020 which greatly affected the town of Petrinja.

More information: <https://www.destination-napoleon.eu/petrinja/#news>

Enhancement of memory, history and European heritage

The FECN-Destination Napoleon and its members are committed to promoting both tangible and intangible heritage linked to Napoleonic history, from great monuments to lesser-known sites, to explaining their historical significance and to creating synergies between the various European territories that are part of the network.

Through the initiatives implemented, the itinerary aims to encourage and support the process of awareness of common European roots, and to question the often non-consensual heritage of the Napoleonic era across European regions.

Bicentenary 2021: First European Week

On the occasion of the bicentenary of Napoleon's death, the first edition of the European Destination Napoleon Week took place from 1 to 9 May. It gave visibility to the activities and events of the more than 60 cities and territories members or partners of the EFCN.

During the week, **Destination Napoleon Talks**, a series of Facebook live webinars, brought together experts on the following themes

- 03.05.2021 - "The role of re-enactments in the transmission of the heritage of Napoleonic Europe". With the participation of the Waterloo 1815 Memorial (Belgium), the 51st Demi Brigade de Bataille (re-enactor), the association of Fort de Bard (Italy) and the tourist office of Pontivy (France).
- 04.05.2021 - "Napoleonic heritage, between consensus and dissonance: how to ensure a European narrative? Parallel interviews with Charles BONAPARTE and Jacques Olivier BOUDON conducted by Jacques MORHAN, former chief editor at France 3.
- 07.05.2021 - "Museums and cities of the future: digital transition and use of new technologies". With the participation of the City of Jena and its Planetarium (Germany), the 1815 Waterloo Memorial and the European Federation of Napoleonic Cities.
- 10.05.2021 - "Playful tools for the transmission of history". With the participation of the Università degli Studi della Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli" (Italy), the Museo del Figurino Storico di

Calenzano (Italy), the Wellington Museum - "The Empire in Playmobil" Exhibition (Belgium) and HistoriaGames.

- 12.05.2021 - "Destination Napoleon and sustainable cultural tourism: challenges for Napoleonic heritage in Europe". With the participation of the Council of Europe - Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes, Plymouth City Council (UK) and Câmara Municipal de Torres Vedras (Portugal).

All Destination Napoleon Talks are available on the Federation's Youtube channel (@destinationnapoleon).

More information: www.destination-napoleon.eu/bicentenaire-2021

Destination Napoleon European Week 2022: Europeana Exhibition

The Destination Napoleon European Week brings together cities around a common theme and highlights the legacy of Napoleon and his era in today's Europe. The second edition, which took place from 5 to 12 May 2022, focused on the theme of "Urbanism in the 19th century". On this occasion, the first online exhibition in collaboration with Europeana was launched on the same theme. From Paris to Madrid, via Amsterdam, Lucca, Pontivy and Piombino, it allows visitors to discover the urban changes that took place in Europe under Napoleon.

More information: <https://www.destination-napoleon.eu/european-week-2022/>



Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans

The young public is one of the main targets of the activities organised by the members and by the museums working with the FECN-Destination Napoleon.

Exhibitions combining history and fun transmission, discovery activities and treasure hunts, as well as costumed visits specially designed for schoolchildren and families, are regularly offered by the members of the network and the museums with which the FECN-Destination Napoleon works.

ouRoute. Erasmus+ European Project (2019-22)

The participation of the FECN as a member of the ouRoute steering committee has contributed to the preparation of a toolkit for secondary school teachers to explain the European heritage of the participating cities to their pupils.

This is an experience of great interest to be transferred to schools in the network cities and for possible proposals for the Erasmus+ calls that will open in the coming months.

More information: <https://www.destination-napoleon.eu/projets-europeens/>

Spotlight on our members

The multi-epoch camp in Coudekerque-Branche, France

Within the framework of the European Heritage Days in France, the town of Coudekerque-Branche organises an annual multi-epoch camp at the Vernaelde farm from 16 to 18 September 2022. This event is an important educational and playful moment for the region. On Friday 16 September, the multi-epoch camp welcomed 2,400 pupils from CE1 to 5e, i.e. approximately 100 classes from 30 schools in the region.



More information: <https://www.destination-napoleon.eu/coudekerque-branche/#news>

Contemporary cultural and artistic practice

The history of the Napoleonic era and its legacy allows the implementation of actions in different artistic and cultural fields, promoting a confrontation and an exchange, in a multidisciplinary and intercultural perspective, across European territories.

The FECN encourages its members to promote artistic projects and activities that explore the links between heritage and contemporary culture, also through the use of new technologies. Projects that open up the fields of visual arts, performing arts, creative crafts, architecture architecture, music are always on the calendar of activities of the FECN and its members.

Commemorative stamp

In 2021, the FECN-Destination Napoleon in cooperation with Poste Italiane and the Italian Istituto Poligrafico dello Stato has elaborated a commemorative stamp for the Bicentenary of Napoleon's death, using a portrait kept in the Venerabile Biblioteca Ambrosiana of Milan and the pastille specially created for 2021 by the FECN. A folder for the stamp was also published and distributed by Poste Italiane: in the folder the FECN and Destination Napoleon cultural itinerary of the Council are presented. The stamp was distributed to Italian philatelic offices and a special edition was put on sale with the Gazzetta dello Sport newspaper.



More information: <https://www.destination-napoleon.eu/timbre-commemoratif-par-la-poste-italienne/>

Napoleonica and the Via Francigena in the Aosta Valley

On the occasion of Napoleonica (30.07 - 01.08.2021), historical re-enactments taking place in the Fort of Bard (Aosta Valley, Italy), a special event around the cancellation of the stamp created by Poste Italiane on the initiative of the FECN took place, in the presence of Eleonora Berti, Director of the FECN-Destination Napoleon. The Napoleonica event was closed by Charles Bonaparte, President of the FECN-Destination.

On 05 August 2021, on the occasion of the Bicentenary of Napoleon's death and the 20th anniversary of the European Association of the Via Francigena (AEVF), a walk was organised between Verres and Fort de Bard on the Via Francigena with Charles Bonaparte, Eleonora Berti and the AEVF team.

Spotlight on our members

Film "Napoleon - And the Stars of His Time" in Jena, Germany

In October 2021, the city of Jena opened "Napoleon and the stars of his time", a film in which Napoleon guides you through Jena as he experienced it at the time. A unique immersive experience thanks to the multimedia reconstruction in FullDome technology of the Zeiss Planetarium. The Sternevent GmbH production was created in close cooperation with Questionmark - Entertainment, the city of Jena, the association "Jena 1806" e.V., as well as many other partners, and financially supported by the Thüringer Aufbaubank.



More information: <https://www.destination-napoleon.eu/iena/#news>

Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development

The FECN-Destination Napoleon and its members are working towards the realisation of alternative tourism and sustainable development initiatives, working in close collaboration with Tourist Offices, local public and private actors, in a spirit of enhancing the heritage and natural resources that are the basis of the identity of each territory. Each territory of FECN-Destination Napoleon develops tourist products related to the Napoleonic theme, offered online and in the tourist offices.

Collaboration with Acqua Fonte Napoleone

On the occasion of the bicentenary of Napoleon's death, Acqua Fonte Napoleone and the European Federation of Napoleonic Cities have launched a limited edition with the Destination Napoleon commemorative emblem.

The Fonte di Napoleone owes its name to Napoleon's visit on 27 August 1814 to the nearby village of Poggio on the island of Elba, where he had five of his soldiers set up rudimentary stone seats near the mineral spring. Since 1947, Fonte di Napoleone has been bottled by Acqua Fonte Napoleone.



NAPOCTEP. European Interreg POCTEP project (2019-22)

The NAPOCTEP project has made it possible to retrace and highlight the routes taken by the armies during the wars on the Iberian Peninsula, fought against Napoleon. Within this framework, online routes tracing the various historical events have been created, as well as in situ signposting with information panels. The texts presenting the routes and panels were written in collaboration with the FECN-Destination Napoleon.

The actions implemented through NAPOCTEP constitute a paradigm to be taken into account in other territories. The signs designed and produced within the project are a model for the signage to be created for the Destination Napoleon routes.

More information: <https://napoctep.eu/>

GRITACCESS. European Project Interreg Maritimo IT-FR (2018-21)

Within the framework of the project, FECN-Destination Napoleon has been entrusted with the task of advising and subcontracting the creation of digital tools for visiting the city of Ajaccio and the city of Lucca. FECN-Destination Napoleon coordinated the technical team and created the contents presenting the cultural assets and the significant sites of Napoleonic history.

This experience has allowed the creation of a first example of a coordinated app, which can be proposed to other cities of the network and to museums.

More information: <https://www.destination-napoleon.eu/projets-europeens/>

Grant from the French Ministry of Culture, 2022

In September 2022, the FECN-Destination Napoleon received a grant from the French Ministry of Culture to increase the visibility of the cultural route in France. The Federation has 13 French member cities and 27 partner museums. The project developed under the grant will focus on the implementation of common guidelines for signage and the development of promotional material for the cultural route in France. These two actions aim to strengthen the visibility of Destination Napoleon in France among the general public and to involve the inhabitants of the member territories more closely.

Spotlight on our members

Short film "Seis Grandes Fortes, Seis Pequenos Filmes", Torres Vedras, Portugal

The Historical Route of the Lines of Torres Vedras (RHLT), member of the European Federation of Napoleonic Cities, has launched 6 short films aimed at encouraging the recovery of tourism in the territory.

Entitled "Seis Grandes Fortes, Seis Pequenos Filmes" (Six big forts, six small films), they highlight the municipalities of Ajuda Grande, Aguieira, Alqueidão, Carvalha, São Vicente and Zambujal.

More information: <https://www.destination-napoleon.eu/torres-vedras/#news>

THE FECN'S BODIES AND TEAM

The European Federation of Napoleonic Cities is a French association under the law of 1901. Its founder, Charles Bonaparte, was president of the network until September 2022. Since then, Vincent Chauvet, Mayor of the city of Autun, has taken over the role of president.

Since 2021, Eleonora Berti has been the Director, succeeding Jacques Mattei. In the same year, Denise de Roux joined the Federation to support its daily activities as Manager.

The Secretariat of the FECN-Destination Napoleon is guaranteed by the City of Autun, with Nicolas Bouillon as Secretary General.

In order to further involve the members in the life of the Federation, vice-presidents have been appointed per country. The vice-presidents come either from a member city of the **European Federation of Napoleonic Cities (FECN)** or from a partner institution, and report on the activities carried out in their respective countries in line with the priorities of the FECN-Destination Napoleon: implementation of actions in the fields of action promoted by the Federation, transmission of the Napoleonic heritage, possibilities for funding and European cooperation.

The vice-presidents are active and key players in the development of the Federation, both at national and macro-regional level, and facilitate the implementation of new initiatives in their respective countries. They are appointed by the Federation's General Assembly.

More information: <https://www.destination-napoleon.eu/federation/>

President

Charles Bonaparte (jusqu'au 23 septembre 2022)

Vincent Chauvet (à partir du 23 septembre 2022)

Executive vice-president

Ana Umbelino (Torres Vedras, PT)

General Secretary

Nicolas Bouillon (Autun, FR)

Vice-presidency per Country

Waterloo 1815 Memorial (BE)

Autun City Council (FR)

Lucca City Council (IT)

Milna Tourist Office (HR)

Bolesławiec City Council (PL)

Herceg Novi City Council (ME)

Plymouth City Council (UK)

Director

Eleonora Berti

Manager

The Governing Board and the General Assembly

The Federation's Governing Board is composed of all its members and, depending on the topic, of partners and observers. It meets monthly or quarterly to discuss ongoing activities of the Federation and its members.

The General Assembly is held annually with all its members to review past and current activities, validate strategic orientations and its operating budget. It is also the moment when the new member cities are formally presented.

In 2021 and 2022, the meetings were held online in September.

The Scientific Committee

Since the creation of the FECN, the Scientific Committee accompanies and supports the work of the Federation team and members through a multidisciplinary approach. Its members are academics and experts from different European countries, specialised in complementary disciplines, essential to ensure the development and strengthening of the network.

The Scientific Committee works closely with the Federation team, offering a multi-perspective vision of Napoleonic history to a wide audience and co-creating a European narrative through the Destination Napoleon itinerary. The Scientific Committee meets regularly to evaluate the activities carried out by the FECN-Destination Napoleon and the membership applications of new members.

More information: <https://www.destination-napoleon.eu/comite-scientifique>

President

Jacques-Olivier BOUDON

Members

Charles BONAPARTE

Josip BELAMARIC

Maria GRAVARI-BARBAS

Luigi MASCILLI MIGLIORINI

Roberto RACE

Michel THOMAS-PENETTE



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