

# European Federation of Napoleonic Cities

## Destination Napoleon

Activity Report  
2023



FÉDÉRATION  
EUROPÉENNE  
DES CITÉS NAPOLEONIENNES



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



# Activity Report 2023

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## OUR NETWORK

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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.

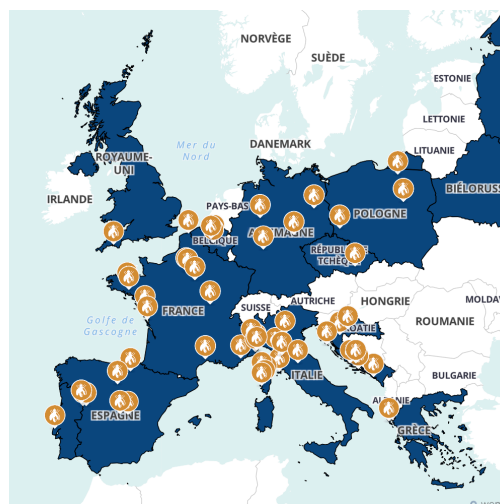
Since its certification, the FECN-Destination Napoleon has been subject to a regular evaluation of its activities every three years. The evaluation aims to verify that the FECN and its members operate in accordance with the certification criteria established by the Council of Europe. In May 2023, the network was recertified by the Council of Europe.

### 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 2023, Auxonne and Monza, a French and an Italian city, joined the Federation.

Since this year, an official ceremony attended by the President of the Federation or one of his delegates has been organised to welcome new members and sign the membership certificate.



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:

- 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.

## The Federation in figures

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

9 founding cities.

49 member cities in 11 countries in 2023.

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  
Sombreffe

### CROATIA

Mali Losinj  
Milna  
Orebić  
Petrinja  
Šibenik

### FRANCE

Ajaccio  
Autun  
Auxonne  
Calvi  
Colpo  
Corte  
Coudekerque-Branche  
Grasse  
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  
Loano  
Lucca  
Monza  
Portoferraio  
Sarzana

### MONTENEGRO

Herceg Novi

### POLAND

Bolesławiec  
Lidzbark Warmiński  
Pułtusk

### PORTUGAL

Historical Route of the Lines of  
Torres Vedras (6 Municipalities)  
Almeida

### SPAIN

Aranjuez  
Ciudad Rodrigo  
Uclés  
Lerma  
Vitoria-Gasteiz

### UNITED-KINGDOM

Plymouth

## FECN – DESTINATION NAPOLEON'S ACTIVITIES

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In 2022-2023, our route Destination Napoleon was subjected to the regular three-yearly evaluation required for Cultural Routes certified by the Council of Europe. The in-depth evaluation of our work and activities highlighted many outstanding features and identified areas for improvement, mainly in terms of visibility and tourism.

The final stage of the evaluation took place on 11 May 2023 in Luxembourg, when the President of the FECN-Destination Napoleon, Vincent Chauvet, and the Director, Eleonora Berti, presented the route to the Management Committee of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.

Destination Napoleon successfully passed the assessment and, by meeting all the required criteria, obtained the renewal of the "Council of Europe Cultural Route" certification.

In 2023, European Destination Napoleon Week took place between 5 and 12 May, including both the anniversary of Napoleon's death (5 May) and Europe Day (9 May).

In 2023, European Destination Napoleon Week took place between 5 and 12 May, coinciding with the anniversary of Napoleon's death (5 May) and Europe Day (9 May). The theme chosen for European Destination Napoleon Week 2023 was Napoleon and Botany. It also provided an occasion to inaugurate the second online exhibition created in partnership with Europeana: this initiative 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 official logo.

#### Website

During 2023, the website was enriched with interactive maps that provide visitors all the information they need about the cultural heritage of the member cities and invite them to discover sites linked to Napoleonic history and times through suggested urban itineraries. Since its launch in March 2021, more than 33.000 people have visited the site.

More information: [www.destination-napoleon.eu](http://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 game organised from 9th to 30th August 2023 in collaboration with Europeana and linked to the *Napoleon and Botany* online exhibition.



In 2023, our Youtube channel was also enhanced: a promotional video presenting Destination Napoleon France was produced and posted online as part of the project supported by the French Ministry of Culture.

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

### Communication tools

In 2022, the French Ministry of Culture has granted the FECN financial support to strengthen Destination Napoleon's presence in France, through the development of specific communication and visibility material, produced in close collaboration with the network's French members.

All the tools were created in 2023 and include:

- Destination Napoleon France guidebook, composed of detachable fact sheets dedicated to each city and illustrated by maps showing the urban itineraries for discovering Napoleonic heritage;
- leaflets illustrating the European Federation of Napoleonic Cities, its missions and its Cultural Route Destination Napoleon;
- the Destination Napoleon Cultural Passport, to be used by travellers and stamped in the places on our route, which can be discovered thanks to the Urban Itineraries proposed for each city in the guidebook;
- roll-ups;
- posters;
- stickers and window decals, which help to identify places that are part of the itinerary, from museums to tourist offices, as well as sites that are part of urban itineraries;
- gadgets (pins and notebooks).

More information:

<https://www.destination-napoleon.eu/resultats-du-projet-destination-napoleon-france/>

## 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, publications in conjunction with universities, cultural institutions and history associations.

Within this framework, FECN - Destination Napoleon organises and takes part in numerous meetings, both in person and online, in collaboration with its members and cultural institutions at local and national level.

The Federation also participates in many meetings held by external partners and by the governments of the countries in which we are present, such as the one organised on 15th June 2023 by the **Fédération Française des Itinéraires Culturels Européens**. This engagement has been recognised by the election of the Director Eleonora Berti as President of this Federation, which brings together the cultural routes certified by the Council of Europe or working towards certification and which cross France.

### Conferences 2023: the role of the Scientific Committee

The members of the Scientific Committee are involved in scientific and public initiatives organised by the Federation and promote the network's work and multiperspective approach through their contributions to conferences and meetings.

On 29th March 2023, the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in France hosted in Paris a lecture by Josip Belamarić, member of the Scientific Committee, entitled "La route Napoléon (route des Français)". The aim of the conference was to illustrate the Marmont route and the French routes in Dalmatia.

More information about the lecture:

<https://www.destination-napoleon.eu/paris-conference-croatie-2023/>



Luigi Mascilli Migliorini and Roberto Race, members of the Scientific Committee, and Charles Bonaparte, Honorary President, moderated the Forum "Archives and Libraries - From Napoleonic History to its Narrative", which took place on 6th May 2023 at Palazzo Reale in Milan. The forum, organised by the European Federation of Napoleonic Cities, the Directorate of Palazzo Reale and the Centro di Documentazione Residenze Reali Lombarde, explored the importance of archives and libraries in the telling and transmission

of the history of the Napoleonic era.

More information:

<https://www.destination-napoleon.eu/milan-conference-archives-et-bibliotheques-de-lhistoire-napoleonienne-a-son-recit/>

The President of the Scientific Committee, Jacques-Olivier Boudon, held a conference at the Musée Napoléon - La Pommerie in Cendrieux on 9th December 2023 on the subject of the two Emperors, Napoleon I and Napoleon III, presenting and signing his books "Napoléon et l'Aquitaine" and "Napoléon III et l'Aquitaine" published by Memoring.

### Spotlight on our members

#### **210th anniversary of the Battle of Hanau**

To commemorate the 210th anniversary of the Battle of Hanau, **Martin Hoppe**, Director of the City's Cultural Service, has written an article for the Musée d'Hanau, highlighting the most significant elements of this page in Napoleonic history.

Among the monuments still visible in the town today and linked to the battle, Martin Hoppe recalls the presence of four oak trees, registered as official natural monuments and subject to special protection.

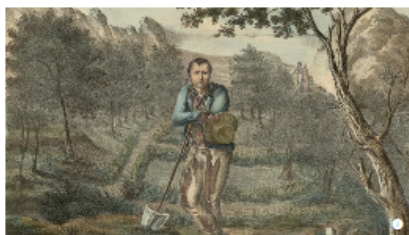
More information: <https://www.destination-napoleon.eu/les-210-ans-de-la-bataille-de-hanau/>

## 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.





## ***Napoleon and Botany: online exhibition with Europeana***

In the framework of the European Destination Napoleon Week, the second online exhibition, produced in collaboration with Europeana and dedicated to "Napoleon and Botany", illustrates the contribution of Napoleon and his time to the development of botany and the natural sciences, from the Egyptian Campaign, to scientific expeditions to new continents, to the role of botanical representation and its links with the celebration of power. The exhibition has been developed with the active participation of the member cities, and is

available in French and English.

The Italian translation was provided by the Parini high school in Seregno, Italy, with which the Federation has a collaboration agreement.

More information: <https://www.destination-napoleon.eu/deuxieme-exposition-europeana/>

The Linhas de Torres municipalities have produced a video for this occasion entitled "Napoleonaea imperialis - Invasões Botânicas na Era Napoleónica", which invites viewers to discover the plant species found along the Linhas de Torres itineraries that were introduced to Europe and Portugal during the Napoleonic era.

More information: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42lxl-yjXvk>

### **Spotlight on our members**

#### ***Restoration of the Château de la Paix in Fleurus***

After a long restoration of the building, the municipality of Fleurus has reopened the doors of the Château de la Paix, where Napoleon stayed after his victory on the battlefield of Saint-Amand - Ligny in 1815.

The work was the result of a complex fund-raising operation led by the municipality to ensure that the castle could be restored and opened to the public.

This is an example that has been shared with other municipalities.

More information: <https://www.destination-napoleon.eu/restauration-du-chateau-de-la-paix-a-fleurus/>

## **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.

### **"Build with Bids" project in collaboration with Europeana**

In the framework of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Europeana and the European Federation of Napoleonic Cities have joined forces to develop the Build with Bids project.

The aim is to create a virtual space in which to discover the Napoleonic history of the Federation's member cities in Spain in a fun and educational way.

The work will be carried out by students from schools in the member cities, both Spanish and from other European countries.

## Spotlight on our members

### ***Tours in First Empire costume in Pontivy***



The Pontivy Communauté Tourist Office regularly offers tours for families with children aged between 6 and 12. The guide and children are dressed in costumes made by local residents. After introducing the theme and explaining the origins of Napoleonville, now Pontivy, the guide accompanies the children through activities such as an introduction to the cavalry and Napoleonic dances with music from the period. A graduation ceremony is held at the end of the visit. During these visits, the children become the characters of history, using costumes and accessories for the activities proposed.

More information:

<https://www.destination-napoleon.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Pontivy-France.pdf>

## 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, music are always on the calendar of activities of the FECN and its members.

### Destination Napoleon and Napoleon, Ridley Scott's movie



For the release of Ridley Scott's movie Napoleon, a number of initiatives and previews were organised by the member cities: debates, meetings, conferences attended by members of the Scientific Committee were proposed, and in some cities spectators were welcomed at the cinema by groups of re-enactors. The Destination Napoleon France promotional video, produced as part of the project funded by the French Ministry of Culture, was shown before Scott's movie in some French cities.

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

## Spotlight on our members

### ***Rendez-vous à l'Élysée at the Théâtre de Nesle, Paris***



Written and directed by Nathalie Ganem, the play highlights the missed rendezvous between France and the French with Napoleon Bonaparte and his destiny. On the 21st June 1815, after his defeat at Waterloo, the Emperor urgently returned to the Élysée Palace to take up arms again, hoping to win back the enthusiasm of the

population and national unity. But he was to find his worst enemy, Joseph Fouché, lining the walls of the Palace, who would unfortunately decide his fate.

More information: <https://www.destination-napoleon.eu/piece-de-theatre-rendez-vous-a-lelysee/>

## 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.

### MED-Routes - Enhancing MED sustainable cultural tourism through the creation of eco-itineraries within European Cultural Routes

The project, proposed by Unione Romagna Faentina and written by Argo - Progettare l'Europa, is co-funded by the European Union - Interreg Euro-MED Programme, and involves 7 partners, members of 4 Cultural Routes certified by the Council of Europe: Destination Napoleon, La Rotta dei Fenici - Cultural Route of the Council of Europe, European Ceramic Route, Les Routes de l'Olivier.

The municipality of Vila Franca de Xira, which is part of the Rota Histórica das Linhas de Torres, is involved as an official partner on behalf of Destination Napoleon, and the European Federation of Napoleonic Cities - Destination Napoleon is an associate partner.

### App Itinerarios Culturales del Consejo de Europa en España

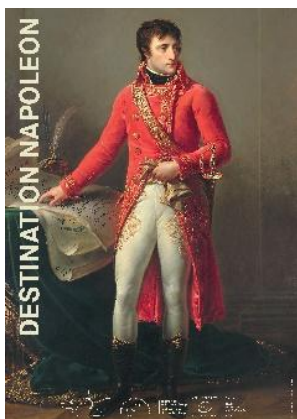


On 18th April 2023, the Spanish Ministry of Culture launched a new application dedicated to the Council of Europe's cultural routes crossing Spain. The aim of the application is to promote the sustainable development of the Council of Europe Cultural Routes in Spain, and to encourage the exchange of experiences and good practices. It is designed to raise awareness of certified routes in Spain, including Destination Napoleon, for citizens, visitors and tourists.

More information:

<https://www.destination-napoleon.eu/app-itinerarios-culturales-espana/>

### Grant from the French Ministry of Culture, 2022-2023



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, focused on the implementation of common guidelines for signage and the development of promotional material for the cultural route in France. These two actions have been aimed to strengthen the visibility of Destination Napoleon in France among the general public, by involving the inhabitants of the member territories more closely.

More information:

<https://www.destination-napoleon.eu/resultats-du-projet-destination-napoleon-france/>

Spotlight on our members

### ***Promotional video for Corte's Napoleonic Day***

The municipality of Corte has released a video to present the Journée Napoléonienne (Napoleonic Day), which took place on the 23rd September and focused on the theme of "Loyalty and betrayal". Through the re-enactment of episodes from the life of Napoleon Bonaparte's family, the city organised a programme of cultural events and guided tours to promote its Napoleonic heritage.

More information: <https://youtu.be/hC90DV4WmRM>

### ***Mimosa Festival in Herceg Novi***



The Mimosa Festival is a traditional event aimed to promote tourism and honour the mimosa flower. It is one of the biggest and oldest festivals in Montenegro. The festival includes a wide range of programmes, the most attractive of which are: carnival parades, costume parties for children and adults, the mimosa, fish and wine festivals, the international flower exhibition and concerts. Exhibitions, concerts, literary and stage programmes featuring local productions and performances by renowned artists from the region, as well as presentations of the cultures and gastronomic traditions of the countries and cities close to Herceg Novi, make the festival programme exceptionally full. The mimosa flower arrived on the coasts of Montenegro during the Napoleonic era, following the return of plants from Australia with the Naturaliste expedition.

## THE FECN'S BODIES AND TEAM

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The European Federation of Napoleonic Cities is a French association under the law of 1901. Its President has been Vincent Chauvet since 2022, and its founder, Charles Bonaparte, has been appointed Honorary President since 2023. Eleonora Berti has been the Director since 2021, and Arianna Duri has been in charge of Federation Coordination since 2023, to support day-to-day activities and maintain contact with members.

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.

### **Honorary President**

Charles Bonaparte

### **President**

Vincent Chauvet

### **Executive vice-president**

Ana Umbelino (Torres Vedras, PT)

### **General Secretary**

Nicolas Bouillon (Autun, FR)

### **Vice-presidency per Country**

Sombreffe City Council (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

### **Coordinator**

Arianna Duri

## 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 2023, the meeting was hosted on the 2nd and 3rd of June in Autun (FR).

More information: <https://www.destination-napoleon.eu/ag-2023/#>

## 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

Josip BELAMARIC

Maria GRAVARI-BARBAS

Luigi MASCILLI MIGLIORINI

Roberto RACE

Michel THOMAS-PENETTE

Alessia MARIOTTI







2023