

INTERNATIONAL LAUNCH EVENT OF THE LIBERATION ROUTE EUROPE HIKING TRAILS

A unique international trail initiative to keep the memory of WWII alive

Brussels, 15 July 2021 – The [LRE Foundation](#) is happy to announce the next evolution of the Liberation Route Europe, a [certified Council of Europe Cultural Route](#) connecting places and people that mark Europe's liberation from occupation during World War II. The launch event will take place on 22 July at 3 pm CEST when the Foundation will present the brand new European-wide system of hiking trails along the Liberation Route Europe.

Developed in collaboration with hiking associations across Europe, the new hiking trails link museums, memorials, cemeteries and historical sites along the Allied Forces' advance in the last phase of WWII and aim to stretch for 10.000 km. The hiking experience is accompanied by the new [Liberation Route Europe website and travel planner](#) that allows the public to read and listen to many stories about WWII and plan their journey along the hiking trails.

Rémi Praud, Managing Director of the LRE Foundation: "We are excited to launch this new system of hiking trails connecting regions, sites and historical places across Europe. These trails are a new meaningful, and sustainable way to experience the Liberation Route Europe. This is only the beginning. We are excited to expand to new regions and countries in the upcoming years."

On the morning of 22 July, the LRE Foundation, in collaboration with the [Best Defence Foundation](#), will escort seven U.S. veterans who served in Germany in 1945 for a visit with press to the German-Russian Museum Berlin-Karlshorst. In the afternoon, the veterans and invited guests will visit the Allied Museum. They will stay the online event to mark the international launch of the Liberation Route Europe hiking trails that will take place at 3 pm CEST. The event will be streamed live from the Allied Museum across the LRE Foundation's social media channels for the international press and public to join online.

Both these museums have a strong historical and cultural value and are key actors in the development of the Liberation Route Europe in Germany.

- The [German-Russian Museum](#) is located at the site of the unconditional surrender of Germany on 8 May 1945 in Berlin-Karlshorst, marking the end of the Second World War in Europe. Today it is a place where two former wartime enemies jointly recall some of their common, albeit very violent, history.
- The [Allied Museum](#) honours the commitment of the Western Powers in defending West-Berlin's Freedom. It shows how enemies became friends, and international cooperation and alliances safeguarded peace, democracy and freedom. It focuses on the history of divided Berlin within the history of divided Germany and the Cold War.

The programme and YouTube Livestream of the event (22 July, 3 pm CEST) are available on the [LRE Foundation's website](#).

In collaboration with:



To learn more about the Allied Museum: <http://www.alliiertenmuseum.de/en/home.html>

To learn more about the German-Russian Museum Berlin-Karlshorst: <https://www.museum-karlshorst.de/en/>

To learn more about the Best Defence Foundation and its work: <https://bestdefensefoundation.org/>

To follow in the footsteps of history, visit: www.liberationroute.com

Find out more about the LRE Foundation and its work at www.lre-foundation.org

Note to editors, not for publication:

For more information about the Liberation Route Europe hiking trail network and its launch event, please contact: Gert-Jan Jacobs, Press & Communications LRE Foundation (+31 622867342 - g.j.jacobs@liberationroute.com).

- **LRE Foundation** is the international network connecting people and organisations that preserve and value the memory, meaning and heritage of WWII. It organises and manages projects and events, has national branches, members and partners around the world.
- **Liberation Route Europe** is the transnational itinerary that links the main regions along the advance of the Allied Forces in 1943-1945. Since 2019, it is a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe. From this year on, people will be able to experience the Route as a network of trails.
- **Europe Remembers** an initiative of the LRE Foundation that enable people to reflect on the complex heritage of WWII from multiple historical perspectives. Started on the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII, it brings together sites, museums, and events in a collaborative travel portal, with a special eye on the multiple experiences of WWII and its consequences.



The LRE Foundation is supported by its strategic partner the vfonds (National Fund for Peace, Freedom, and Veteran Care) since 2012.