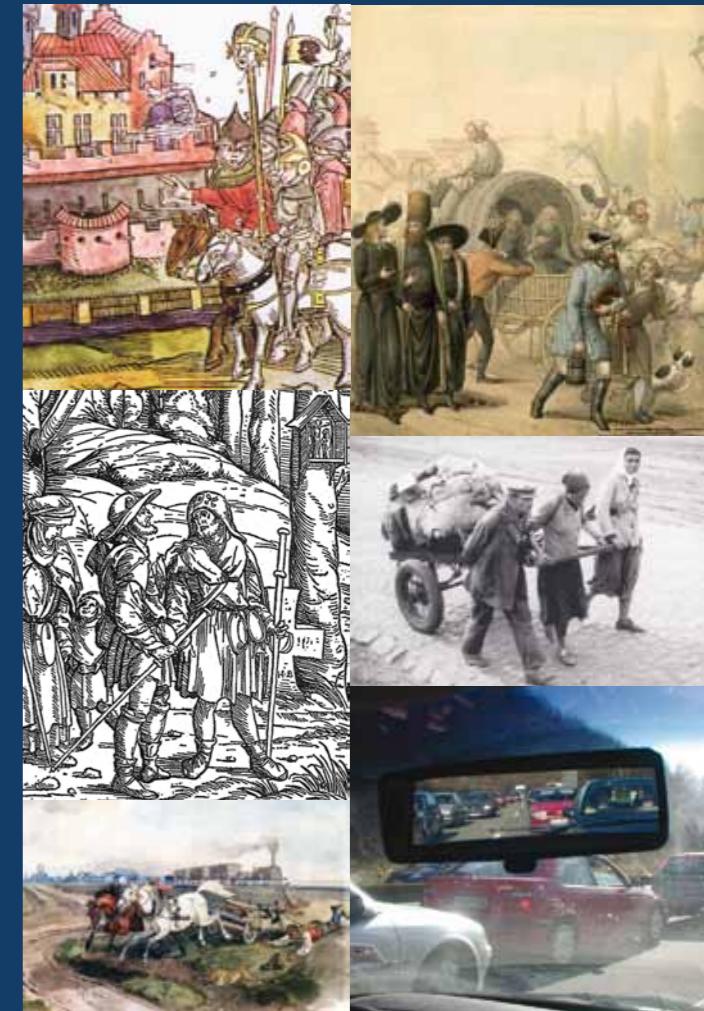


# VIA REGIA



## publications (selection):

### 100 x kleine Geschichten(n) an der VIA REGIA

(100 x small [hi-]stories along the VIA REGIA)

by Jürgen Fischer (Editor)

Erfurt, NETZ – Medien und Gesellschaft e.V. 2018, paperback 200 p.

ISBN: 9783000593581

### Reisen für Alle

#### Die VIA REGIA von Frankfurt am Main nach Leipzig

(Tourism for All – The VIA REGIA from Frankfurt Main to Leipzig)

A time travel through German culture and history

with information about accessibility)

Erfurt, NETZ – Medien und Gesellschaft e.V. 2016, brochure 96 p.

### Erlebnisradweg

#### VIA REGIA - Kulturstraße des Europarates von Frankfurt am Main nach Kraków (Krakau)

(adventure cycling path VIA REGIA – Cultural Route of the Council of Europe from Frankfurt Main to Kraków)

Erfurt, NETZ – Medien und Gesellschaft e.V. 2012, brochure 80 p.

Only singular copies available

### external editors:

#### Meine Via Regia und meine auch

(My Via Regia and mine, too; Travel by feet from Frankfurt to Görlitz)

by Angela Pfothner and Elmar Lixenfeld,

Deutsche Stiftung Denkmalschutz Monumente Publikationen 2017

ISBN: 9783867951319

#### via regia. 800 Jahre Bewegung und Begegnung.

(via regia. 800 years movement and encounters

catalogue of the 3. Saxonian National Exhibition)

Roland Enke and Bettina Probst (ed.), Dresden. Sandstein Verlag, 2011

ISBN: 9783942422345



Routes are a cultural heritage of particular importance: human interaction and economic activities as well as the development and dissemination of cultural accomplishments are impossible without traffic routes.

A European road system between the Atlantic coast and the river Dnjepr exists since the Stone Age. This is the most important road link between the East and the West of Europe, called VIA REGIA. (In the Holy Roman Empire these roads were under the protection of the King and subsequently were named VIA REGIA [Kings Road].)

Major European cities like Paris, Frankfurt Main, Leipzig, Wrocław, Kraków, Lviv and Kiev are located on this road. But also charming and appealing regions with numerous small and medium sized towns representing a rich cultural heritage, countless sights and leisure time facilities are especially attractive.

With the fall of the Iron Curtain the idea arose to revitalize the VIA REGIA as symbol for the unification of Europe. This development was connected with the newly gained possibility to unrestricted travelling between East and West of Europe. Based on the political changes new forms of European co-operation especially in the East-West-relationships became possible.

Already at the beginning of the 1990s sporadic contacts between initiatives aiming at the revitalization of the VIA REGIA have been developing.

In 2004 the international symposium „VIA REGIA – European Cultural Route“ took place in the Thuringian States Chancellery. As one of the results the Council of Europe has chosen the VIA REGIA as topic of high importance for the European unification based on its historical, artistic and social meaning. Since then a European VIA REGIA network has been developing, that has been awarded as „Cultural Route of the Council of Europe“ in 2006.

The VIA REGIA project expanded geographically over the years. Actually it does not only cover the route from Wrocław to the river Rhine as it was mentioned as „Kings Road“ (strata regia) in a charter of margrave Heinrich in 1252.

It also includes alternative routes in this section, the westerly continuation known as the Pilgrimage Route to Santiago de Compostela and the Road to Brabant as trading route up to the Belgian Atlantic coast. Eastwards the VIA REGIA finds its continuation as European traffic artery on to Kiev.

The present tracks largely follow the historical routes as highways, state and country roads. Driving these roads people may feel connections to ancient times and historic narratives.

The VIA REGIA network realizes several projects within the frame work of the Cultural Routes program of the Council of Europe and offers information about travelling, hiking, pilgrimage along the VIA REGIA.

### editor and contact:

#### European Centre for Culture and Information in Thuringia

in the association NETZ – Medien und Gesellschaft e.V.

point of contact for VIA REGIA –

Cultural Route of the Council of Europe

Bahnhofstr. 27

D-99084 Erfurt

fon: 0049/ (0)361/ 76 48 590

mail: [ekt@via-regia.org](mailto:ekt@via-regia.org)

web: [www.via-regia.org](http://www.via-regia.org)

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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



## network VIA REGIA

At present (2018) the VIA REGIA network has with subdivisions

**more than 150 members in**  
**Україна (Ukraine),**  
**Беларусь (Belarus),**  
**Polska (Poland),**  
**Deutschland (Germany),**  
**France (France).**

Every interested party can become a member of the network „VIA REGIA – Cultural Route of the Council of Europe“. That are a.o.:

**local and regional authorities,**  
**institutions,**  
**associations,**  
**enterprises,**  
**groups without legal status,**  
**individuals.**

The network works as Community of practice. The membership is free.

Following the rules of the Council of Europe a membership in the network is a necessary requirement for cities/ facilities located within the VIA REGIA-corridor to use the award „Cultural Route of the Council of Europe“ for marketing material.

The entry to the Cultural Routes network requires the acknowledgement of the Cultural Routes program of the Council of Europe as well as an active participation in the revitalization of the VIA REGIA.



## Cultural Route of the Council of Europe

The members of the network realize on individual initiative and responsibility VIA REGIA-related projects in the fields of

**history,**  
**arts and culture,**  
**leisure and recreation,**  
**exchange of youth,**  
**tourism,**  
**marking of historical route courses**  
**and signposting.**

They work together on the development of a knowledge, information and service platform on the internet ([www.via-regia.org](http://www.via-regia.org)) in order to convey the characteristics of the native cultural landscape to a broad public and to express the variety and richness of the „cultural space“ of Europe. These are among others:

### the geographical information system

It contains 19.000 POIs throughout Europe that are grouped into several categories. So the user can develop his itineraries on [geo.viaregia.org](http://geo.viaregia.org). He can choose culture and leisure facilities, sights, restaurants and accommodation ... and can fade in pictures, characteristics and service information.

### the digital VIA REGIA library

There are more than 150 VIA REGIA-related texts available at present. Approximately 100 of them are digitized and can be read and downloaded for free.



## travelling

The historic VIA REGIA is a road link originating from times before the invention of the railway. That means travelling was slow and only a short distance journey.

If we take deceleration as basic principle travelling along the VIA REGIA is connected with three basic touristic values:

**VIA REGIA-travelling is**  
**Slowed-down pleasure- and experience travelling**  
**Exploratory expeditions in the “cultural space” of Europe**  
**West-East/ East-West-experience journey**

Members and partners of the network „VIA REGIA – Cultural Route of the Council of Europe“ offer arrangements in different road sections within the VIA REGIA corridor to hike, cycle, for pilgrimage and for motorized tourism:



## pilgrimage

The pilgrimage paths leading from Eastern Europe to Santiago de Compostela are very closely connected with the VIA REGIA.

**Львівська дорога святого Якова VIA REGIA**  
**from Львів (Lviv) to Шегині (Schehyni)**

Facebook: [web.facebook.com/Viaregia.Ukraine](https://www.facebook.com/Viaregia.Ukraine)

**Camino VIA REGIA**  
**from the Polish/Ukrainian border to Zgorzelec / Görlitz**

web: <https://camino.net.pl>

**Ökumenischer Pilgerweg VIA REGIA**  
**(Oecumenic pilgrimage path VIA REGIA)**

**from Görlitz to Vacha**

web: [www.oekumenischer-pilgerweg.de](http://www.oekumenischer-pilgerweg.de)

From here the Pilgrim Route St. James to Santiago de Compostela take their route courses within the VIA REGIA-corridor from Frankfurt Main – Mainz – Trier – Reims to Paris. In the French metropolis the Via Touronensis begins. It leads to the Spanish Puente la Reina and reaches as Camino Francés after approx. 3.000 km Santiago de Compostela.

## hiking and bicycle touring



**adventure cycling path**  
**VIA REGIA – Cultural Route of the Council of Europe**  
**from Frankfurt Main to Kraków**

The route is a combination of existing cycling paths similar with or near to the VIA REGIA with own signposting. The course is presented in an interactive map on the internet and published as brochure.

Web: [www.radweg-viaregia.eu](http://www.radweg-viaregia.eu)



## motor tourism

The VIA REGIA tour recommendation from Paris to Kiev for motor tourists is online and downloadable as gpx-track.

This offer is designed for individual travellers with caravan, car or motorcycle and is a new service of the network „VIA REGIA – Cultural Route of the Council of Europe“ in cooperation with the tourplanner „dreamango“.

web: [www.dreamango.com/s/7pHbn](http://www.dreamango.com/s/7pHbn)