

**Declaration of Principles of European Network of Cistercian Heritage  
Declaração de Princípios da Rede Europeia de Património Cisterciense  
Déclaration de principes du Réseau européen du Patrimoine cistercien  
Grundsatzserklärung europäische Netzwerk des zisterziensischen Erbes  
Dichiarazione dei principi della Rete europea del Patrimonio cistercense  
Declaración de principios de la Red europea del Patrimonio cisterciense  
Deklaracja Zasad Europejskiej Sieci Dziedzictwa Cysterskiego  
Beginselverklaring Europees Network van Cisterciënzer Erfgoed  
Declaració de Principis de la Xarxa europea del Patrimoni Cistercenc  
Declaración de Principios da rede Europeia do Patrimonio Cisterciense  
Tsistertslaste pärandi Euroopa võrgustiku põhimõtete deklaratsioon**

## **Preamble**

The European Network of Cistercian Heritage (abbeys, former monastery farms, archives, libraries, among others) brings together various entities, such as public guardianship institutions, national/regional archives, municipalities or private owners (individuals, companies, religious entities, among others).

The European Network of Cistercian Heritage has the collective intention of better serving the cause of safeguarding the Cistercian Heritage to which it is dedicated, promoting technical and scientific dialogue between institutions, organizations and individuals, developing debate and synergies, as well as promoting actions to support knowledge, preservation and communication of heritage, through the creation of partnerships and the development of cooperative projects.

Between these actions, one important goal is to apply for certification of the Itinerary of Cistercian Sites to the Program Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and future candidacy to its inscription in the World Heritage List of UNESCO.

The Network, initially promoted and coordinated by the Alcobaça Monastery (Portugal), an institution dependent on the Directorate-General for Cultural Heritage (Portuguese Ministry of Culture), and the future Public entity Museus e Monumentos de Portugal, E.P.E. (Portuguese Ministry of Culture) from January 1st, 2024, seeks to act as a forum for meetings, discussion and development of joint projects between participating institutions.

### **1. Statement of values**

The values followed and promoted by the members are:

- a. Harmony, mutual respect and peacebuilding;
- b. Democracy, solidarity, cooperation, and unity while respecting cultural diversity;

- c. Cultural dissemination, through scientific meetings, publications, and other cultural activities in-between the Cistercian sites, in order to discover elements from the past that are valid for the present and helpful for shaping the future;
- d. Acknowledge the intrinsic relationship between nature and spirituality;
- e. Respect the biodiversity and the responsible management of natural resources; taking care of the monastic landscape, and showing it's continuous transformation;
- f. Hospitality, characteristic of Cistercian monasteries;
- g. Education and scientific research: Cistercian sites can show what heritage means for humanity, and how important it is to respect it;
- h. Citizenship and communication related to the Cistercian identity.

## **2. Overall purpose**

- a. Visibility of Cistercian Heritage
- b. Cooperation in research and development
- c. Dissemination of knowledge
- d. Promotion and exchange good practices in heritage preservation
- e. Cultural educational interactions
- f. Contribute to sustainability of the Cistercian sites and local communities

## **3. Terms and conditions**

3.1. Membership is voluntary, with each entity being able to withdraw from membership at any time.

3.2. Any application to membership is formalized through communication addressed to the coordinating entity (Alcobaça Monastery) and must be approved by the Network. Withdrawal is formalized through communication addressed to the coordinating entity (Alcobaça Monastery).

3.3. Adhering entities are bound by the Declaration of Principles, committing to respect it, and any issues arising from its interpretation and compliance must be resolved by agreement between the parties.

3.4. The coordinating entity is responsible for organizing the internal functioning of the Network based on a principle of simplification and maximum agility.

3.5. Membership does not imply any transfer of resources between members, who cover their own financial costs arising from participation in the actions developed, subject to their respective budget availability.

Whether funds are obtained through participation in European and non-European calls, the financial costs relating to the events / actions developed will be supported through the use of the funds obtained.

3.6. As the Network is an informal and open structure, this Declaration of Principles does not have a statutory character.

3.7. The Network now created has a transitional nature and will remain in force until the legal constitution of a non-profit association with identical objectives.



3.8. In matters of confidentiality and protection of personal data, the following rules apply:

- a) Participating entities undertake to preserve the confidentiality of personal data to which they have access or which have been transmitted to them within the scope of the implementation of this partnership, as well as to take all appropriate technical and organizational measures to protect personal data against its destruction, accidental or illicit, accidental loss, alteration, unauthorized dissemination or access, particularly when the processing of data involves its transmission over a network, under the terms set out in the General Data Protection Regulation, Regulation No. 2016/679, of European Parliament and of the Council, of April 27, 2016, and other applicable legislation;
- b) The information and documentation covered by the duty of confidentiality may not be transmitted to third parties, nor subject to any other use or processing other than that intended directly and exclusively for the execution of this Agreement;
- c) The duty of confidentiality excludes information and documentation that are proven to be in the public domain or that, by law, contract, judicial process or at the request of regulatory authorities or other administrative, judicial or police entities, the signatories are obliged to disclose;
- d) Within the scope of the negotiation, celebration or execution of this partnership, the parties undertake not to carry out, authorize or allow any act that could imply the involvement of one of them in violation of applicable legislation or regulations relating to anti-bribery and/or anti-corruption.

Alcobaça, December 15, 2023

The foundational members:

**Monastery of Alcobaça | Directorate-General for Cultural Heritage [Portugal]**

Ana Pagará (Director)

Assinado por: **Ana Fatima Martelo Pagará**  
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**Cistercian Order**

D. Lluç Torcal (General Procurator)

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TORCAL  
SIRERA -  
DNI  
46626414D

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**Monastery of Santa Maria de Poblet [Spain]**

D. Octavi Vilà (Abbot)

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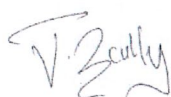
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**Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal | National Trust [United Kingdom]**

Justin Scully (General Manager)



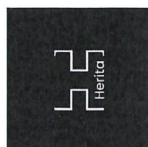
General Manager

The National Trust

Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal, Ripon, North Yorkshire, HG4 3DY

**Herkenrode Abbey | Herita [Belgium]**

Matthias Francken (General Director)



**Monastery of São Cristóvão de Lafões [Portugal]**

Margarida Osswald (Manager)

Assinado por: MARIA MARGARIDA CARDOSO  
OSSWALD

Num. de Identificação: 06748751

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**Monastery of Oia [Spain]**

Xoán Martínez Reboredo (General Manager)

Firmado por \*\*\*5725\*\*

XOAN MARTINEZ (R:

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por AC Representación

**Monastery of Padise [Estonia]**

Marje Kidron (Director)

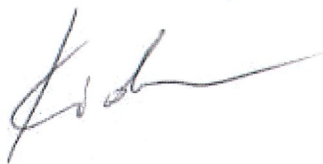


Marje Kidron

Juhataja /Director

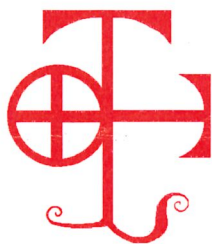
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Reg: 77001754



**Fondazione Abbazia Sancte Marie de Morimundo [Italy]**

Maria Teresa Forni (President)



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**AISAC - Associazione Italiana Siti e Abbazie Cistercensi [Italy]**

Marco Marelli (President)



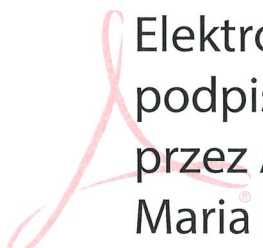
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**National Association of Cistercian Communes [Poland]**

Aneta Kołuda (President)

Aneta  
Maria  
Kołuda

Elektronicznie  
podpisany  
przez Aneta  
Maria Kołuda



**Cistercian Route in Poland [Poland]**

Teresa Świercz (Representative)

*Teresa Świercz*

**Cistercian Route in the Benelux [Belgium]** Irene

Bien (Representative)

*Irene Bien*

**Association "Les Amis de Fontfroide" [France]**

Jean Louis de Lagausie (Vice President)

*Jean Louis de Lagausie*

**Association Passion Fontfroide [France]**

Rémy de Langlade (President)

*Rémy de Langlade*

**Association "Renaissance de Clairvaux" [France]**

Gérard Beureux (President)

*Gérard Beureux*