



Ergonomics European Routes

Since 2006, the Italian Society of Ergonomics has begun to talk about the Ergonomics of the Territory (National Congress 2006).

In this approach a distinctive Territory, circumscribed by a certain number of municipalities, is considered an Organisation and therefore a field of intervention for Ergonomists who must deal with how to improve the quality of life and work life present in this particular organisation. In 2010 the book “Territorial Organisation” was published, written by the current President of the Lazio Region Section and published by Guerini & Ass..

Since 2014, the Italian Society of Ergonomics has begun to deal with the Routes that people take on foot, by bicycle or on horseback, crossing several territories, working to optimise their practicability and to train young people to support those responsible for such action. Two Master's courses have already been held in Foggia (Italy) for Animators of European Cultural Routes.

The phenomenon of the Cultural Routes has been growing in Europe since the tourist success of the Route of St. James in Compostela and thanks to the incentives of the European Commission, which has promoted them to encourage cultural integration between different countries of the Union.

The ergonomists who work on the Routes and in the Territorial Organisations they pass through operate on different fronts and in an integrated and interdisciplinary manner:

- to make the route safe and practicable, providing refreshment points along the way
- adapt the communication for orientation on the direction to follow (signs, web, social media, etc.)
- make the areas crossed welcoming and the services provided effective
- ensuring the health of walkers before, during and after the effort made
- ensure that the clothing worn and the tools used by walkers are appropriate
- provide facilities to restore the tools used (bikes, shoes, poles, glasses, etc.) or the animals used (horses or dogs)
- ensure that the Route can be walked by all types of walkers (different ages and sexes, able-bodied and partially disabled, etc.)

Manuals are formalised to provide guidance to those who work on these plans, and many magazines and texts are produced to give advice to those who set out on the Route and to those who provide the best reception conditions.

This is indispensable for the Routes accredited by the European Commission and recognised by the governments of the countries crossed, because there must be no differences between the different sections of the route.



The SIE hopes that European ergonomists can play a significant role in:

- the formulation of manuals so that they can benefit from systemic ergonomic expertise
- the processes put in place in different countries to optimise the Pathways
- the training initiatives necessary to prepare ergonomists specialised in the Ergonomics of the European Route
- facilitating the integration between the territorial Organisations of different European countries in order to make homogeneously equipped the Route that crosses them.
- pursuing a professional network link between the Ergonomists who in the different countries deal with the Route
- being reference structures for the companies that produce products, tools and texts of various kinds for walkers.

For this reason it intends to suggest the development of three initial actions:

- construction of a Network of Ergonomists of the European Route starting from recognizing at least one reference for each European country, which can coordinate a national group as has already done the SIE
- an interlocution with the European Commission responsible for accrediting European Route to offer collaboration to accredit the Route "ergonomically".
- the participation in a Master in Ergonomics of the European Routes that the SIE can organise in digital mode, in English, to form a European group and then release to each country for the training of its members.

Italian references

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