

Languages on the Route of Santiago de Compostela

Languages and Diversity
on the Routes of Santiago



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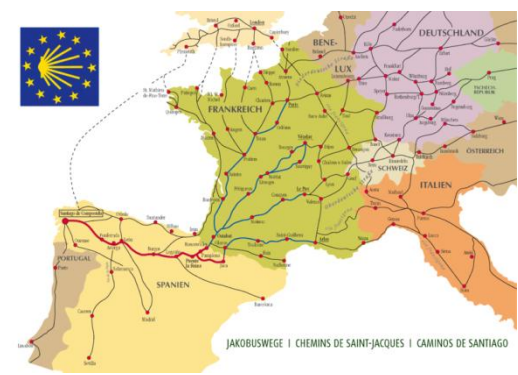
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Languages on the Route

Language and Diversity on the Route of Santiago

1. Introduction



The Routes of Santiago de Compostela were and are still used as meeting routes of several European people since their creation.

The pilgrimages to Santiago have met and continue to meet people from all origins, conditions and languages since the Middle Ages. All these people gathered in Galicia, the last stage of the Route, where they lived and spoke with Galician people. Five routes converge in Galicia: the French one, the Portuguese one, the Silver one, the English one and the Fisterra one.

In the Middle Ages, Santiago was a true Babel, where Galician, but also Spanish, Catalan, Basque, French, German, Italian and Scandinavian and Slavic languages could be heard.

Cultural and language diversity are thus closely related in Europe; the understanding of both of them as a factor of enriching diversity, highlighting their common origins and links, as well as their differences, is important for the appreciation of these differences as a common cultural heritage.



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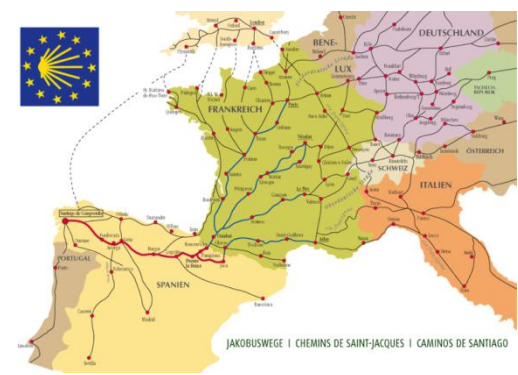
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1. Introduction



In a square placed in Santiago, people exchanged coins, candles to lit in the church were sold, essences and ointments were spread and products made of silver and jet were offered to people from different places. **Galician** was used, but **other languages** were also spoken.

Therefore, **language diversity is an identity sign of the Route of Santiago de Compostela** and Galician is a host language for all visitors, the language of their host place: Galicia.

The **Culture Programme 2007-2013** aims at celebrating Europe's cultural diversity and enhance our shared cultural heritage by achieving three main objectives: to promote **cross-border mobility** of those working in the cultural sector; to encourage the **transnational circulation** of cultural and artistic output; and to foster **intercultural dialogue**.



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2. Aim



Languages on the Route of Santiago de Compostela: Language and Diversity on the Routes of Santiago

The Galician Government wishes to recreate that communication and relation atmosphere among languages on the Routes of Santiago on occasion of the celebration of the Holy Year in 2010 by the following ways:

- By letting know pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela the origin, evolution and richness of Galician language and, at the same time, its relation with other European languages and the long history of links among all of them.
- By exchanging goals, methods, experiences, results and studies on cultural and language tourism, for a better understanding of local and regional cultures and especially for promoting the idea of Europe as a superregional entity, with its ideas, principles and values.
- By promoting the knowledge and information on European languages, those spoken at present and also in the past by pilgrims to Compostela.
- By highlighting the role played by Galician as a host and identification language with the last stage of the Route.



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3. Main objectives



1. Create a steady collaboration framework to promote European culture and languages connected with the Routes of Santiago de Compostela, through a network involving several European regions related to pilgrimage to Compostela in the Middle Ages, such as Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, Germany, Denmark and Sweden, but also the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland.
2. Promoting the discussion to bring cultural and linguistic plurality together, as elements to boost in the cultural promotion of the Routes of Santiago de Compostela for the approaching Holy Year 2010.
3. Promote the knowledge of the European language diversity, its origins and existing connections among all languages.



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4. Lines of action



- **Line 1: Establishment of a European Network of Cultural Agents, which joins the spreading and knowledge of European cultures and languages linked to the Route of Santiago de Compostela.**
- **Line 2: Conference on *Europe in its languages and cultures*.**
- **Line 3: Carrying out a report on *Santiago de Compostela and its Routes, a European cultural crossroads*.**
- **Line 4: Carrying out a *Common Strategic Plan of Actions*, with the aim to apply innovation and creativity to the strategies of cultural promotion in Europe.**



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4. Lines of action



- **Line 5: Programme for transnational spreading on *Europe in the Routes of Santiago de Compostela* (travelling exhibition, materials, etc).**
- **Line 6: Defining a *Network of centres for interpreting regional cultures and languages in the Routes of Santiago de Compostela*, located besides the different Routes and in different European States.**
- **Line 7: Development of a multilingual website on languages and culture on the Route of Santiago de Compostela.**



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