

**TRANSNATIONAL LEADER COOPERATION PROJECT 2024-2028**  
**TNC III: Cisterscapes - connecting Europe**



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| <b>PROJECT OBJECTIVE</b> | <b>Implementation of the project measures for the EUROPEAN HERITAGE LABEL 2024-2027 (EHL)</b>   |
| <b>RUNNING TIME</b>      | <b>11/2024-06/2028</b>  |
| <b>PROJECT MANAGER</b>   | District of Bamberg (Bavaria) = Transnational Coordinator/LEAD Partner (LP)   |
| <b>PROJECT TYPE</b>      | LEADER Transnational Cooperation Project (TNC III) 11/2024-06/2028<br>Lead project with 17 partners (PP) with associated sub-projects |

Projektträger:



Gefördert durch  
Bayerisches Staatsministerium für  
Ernährung, Landwirtschaft, Forsten und Tourismus

Ein im Rahmen des GAP-Strategieplans Deutschland 2023 – 2027 gefördertes LEADER-Projekt im Freistaat Bayern

Weitere Fördergeber:



**AT A GLANCE:** Cisterscapes - Cistercian Landscapes Connecting Europe - Cistercian Cultural Landscapes as Connecting European Cultural Heritage, exemplifying how effectively a transnational exchange of ideas in best practice can promote participants and contribute to unity in regional diversity.

**Goals:**

Implementation of project measures for the EUROPEAN CULTURAL HERITAGE LABEL (EHL) of the transnational Cisterscapes site with 17 individual sites

- Concepts and measures to raise awareness of the common European history in the Cistercian sphere of activity
- Networking at European level within the EHL network and with other initiatives and stakeholders
- Enhancing the value of the regions for tourism, public relations, regional development
- Updating and marketing the 6,340 km long-distance hiking trail "Cistercian Way"
- Mediation using new technologies (web database capture, augmented reality/virtual reality app)
- Educational measures (school projects, further training for hiking guides and rural tour guides)
- Planning and implementation of an annual program for the 900th anniversary of the Ebrach Cistercian Monastery in 2027

**Content:**

- **Press and public relations, website, social media; press trip**
- Development and implementation of **the annual program for the 900th anniversary of the Ebrach Cistercian Monastery in 2027** with organ concert series, artistic offerings, monastery markets, etc., international symposium
- **Cultural education**, e.g. teacher training, design of teaching materials, lecture series, guided excursions (hikes, bike tours)
- Establishment of the new **European long-distance hiking trail "Cistercian Way"** to strengthen the regions and involve other stakeholders, expansion of tourist offers, marketing
- **Concept for traveling exhibition** on all 17 individual sites with accompanying booklet
- Expansion and consolidation of the **network with EHL sites and other European initiatives**: themed workshops, conferences, excursions, research, cultural and culinary events
- **Awareness-raising/communication**: Landscape guide training and further training, training of tourism professionals, on-site offers in the Bavarian monastery landscapes and in the other individual sites as part of the so-called **visitation tour**; special offers for young adults such as work camps
- Updating the **cultural landscape inventories** in all European partner regions on the basis of the existing database ([www.database.cisterscapes.eu](http://www.database.cisterscapes.eu))
- Update of the interactive Cisterscapes landscape app (multilingualism, content)
- Expansion of **digital and multilingual offerings**, creation of content in plain language
- Preparation and submission of the joint **EHL program of measures** for the years 2028-2031.

### **Cisterscapes partners/EHL individual sites/project partners (PP):**

On a transnational level, the following partners under the leadership of the district of Bamberg/Bavaria (lead partner = LP):

Project partners (PP) are the respective monastery and municipality (town and/or administrative rural district). \* Cooperation partner within the framework of LEADER TNC III: Cisterscapes-connecting Europe.

#### Monastic landscapes Germany / Bavarian partners

- **Ebrach\*** (BY, Bamberg district), LAG Region Bamberg e.V, Bamberg district, Ebrach market community; LAG Haßberge, Hassberge district; LAG Z.I.E.L. Kitzingen, district of Kitzingen; LAG Schweinfurter Land, district of Schweinfurt;  
**Within the Ebrach monastery landscape, participation via TNC III co-operation (no EHL sites):**  
LAG Rangau, town of Heilsbronn; LAG Südlicher Steigerwald, district of Neustadt an der Aisch-Bad Windsheim; LAG Rhön-Grabfeld, district of Rhön-Grabfeld; LAG LEADER district of Bad Kissingen, „Zentrum für Pflege, Sozialberufe und Ehrenamt in Maria Bildhausen“
- **Langheim\*** (BY, district of Lichtenfels), LAG Obermain region, district of Lichtenfels, town of Lichtenfels
- **Waldsassen\*** (BY, district of Tirschenreuth), LAG InitiAKTIVKreis Tirschenreuth, district of Tirschenreuth, IKOM Stiftland, town of Waldsassen

#### Monastic landscapes Germany / non-Bavarian partners:

- **Altenberg** (NRW), Rheinisch-Bergisch district, town of Odenthal
- **Bronnbach** (BW), Main-Tauber district
- **Loccum** (NI), town of Rehburg-Loccum, Loccum Monastery, district of Nienburg/Weser,
- **Maulbronn** (BW), town of Maulbronn
- **Pforte** (SA) Schulstiftung Schulpforta

#### Monastic Landscapes Austria / Partner:

- **Rein** (Styria), LAG Grazer Bergland\*, Rein Abbey, market community Gratwein-Straßengel
- **Zwettl** (Lower Austria), Zwettl Abbey, market town of Zwettl

#### Monastic Landscape Poland / Partner:

- **Łekno/Wągrowiec** (Greater Poland), Gmina Wągrowiec, Urząd Miejski w Wągrowcu

#### Monastic landscapes Slovenia/Partner:

- **Stična** (Ivančna Gorica), Muzej krščanstva na Slovenskem
- **Kostanjevica na Krki** (Dolenjska), Božidar Jakac Art Museum

#### Monastic Landscapes Czech Republic /Partner:

- **Plasy** (Pilsen district, Bohemia), MAS Světovina
- **Velehrad** (Zlínský district, Moravia), MAS Buchlov
- **Vyšší Brod** (Hohenfurt, Český Krumlov district, South Bohemia), MAS Rozkvět
- **Žďár nad Sázavou** (Saar, Vysocina district, Moravia), MAS Havlíčkův kraj

### Project structure and financing

- The transnational cooperation project is being funded in the current funding period (2023-2027) with funds from "LEADER" (= Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale). These EU funds (EAFRD) serve to strengthen rural areas on the basis of municipal cooperation in accordance with the bottom-up principle.
- The LEAD partner for TNC III is the district of Bamberg with the responsible LAG Region Bamberg e.V. (Bavaria/Germany).
- The LEAD partner submits the overall application for the implementation of the so-called overhead projects, naming the sub-projects (their implementation is carried out by the individual locations or by other actors).
- The guidelines of the applicant LAG (in this case LEADER Bavaria) are decisive for the cooperation.
- Proportional funding is required for LEADER funding. This is made up of LEADER cooperation funds from the participating LAGs and own funds from the Bavarian and all non-Bavarian partners.
- In addition, other third-party donors and other funding providers are consulted (regional/national funding, sponsors, etc.)

### ELEMENTS OF THE MONASTERY LANDSCAPE

Cistercian monastic landscapes have uniform characteristics throughout Europe. They are of great importance for the history of Europe and for European identity:

- an ingenious hydraulic engineering system for supplying and disposing of the monastery and for generating energy (wells, kitchen, latrines in the monastery, brewery, mills)
- Extensive pond management due to the fasting regulations
- Granges, specialized farmsteads with correspondingly large plots of land for farming and livestock breeding, formed the economic basis of the monastery economy: the ring of granges and the town courtyards were common throughout Europe
- Large woodlands for construction and firewood supply (monastery forest)
- Viticulture for religious purposes, but also for trade Fruit and hop growing
- City courtyards as marketing locations for the surpluses
- Resource extraction
- Pilgrimages, network of paths

**TERMINOLOGY** Cistercian monastic landscapes are a special case of the historical cultural landscape. They reflect the forms and techniques of land use and settlement policy of the Cistercians, their adaptation to natural conditions and spiritual requirements. Cistercian monastic landscapes are thus narratives of culture and expressions of regional identity.

## **EHL European Heritage Label:**

**Since April 17, 2024, the transnational site "Cisterscapes" has been awarded the European Heritage Label!**

The European Heritage Label is an award for the role of a place/region in European history. The sites bearing the label aim to inspire people about their shared history and heritage through activities and an educational program. The EHL is not a protection label, but a qualification of a site for its outstanding European significance.

### **European significance of the site:**

The transnational site of Cisterscapes embodies *in nuce* the network of the Cistercian order and its role in the European migration process and cultural exchange. Cistercians settled, farmed and networked Europe. Through their organizational structure, they had a large-scale integrating effect: they promoted cultural and technical innovations and made a fundamental contribution to the settlement history of large parts of the continent through the integration of lay monks and the shaping of the urban-rural structure.

The monastery landscapes in our application project are therefore preparing together to meet the following requirements:

- Formation of an international network
- Raising awareness of the European significance
- Information and communication
- Marketing concept
- Education and mediation
- Promoting multilingual access
- New technologies, digital and interactive media
- Management of the sites and further development
- Infrastructure and accessibility
- Sustainable tourism

## **ACADEMIC ADVISORY BOARD**

### **Full members of the Scientific Advisory Board since 2019:**

#### **Speaker**

#### **Prof. Dr. Gunzelmann, Thomas (retired)**

1st Spokesperson Scientific Advisory Board Cisterscapes

Former Chief Conservator Bavarian State Office for the Preservation of Historical Monuments

#### **Prof. Dr. Schenk, Winfried (retired)**

Deputy Spokesperson Scientific Advisory Board Cisterscapes

Former Chair of Historical Geography at the Institute of Geography at the University of Bonn

### **Other members in alphabetical order**

**Arnold, Katharina, M.A.**

Bavarian State Office for the Preservation of Historical Monuments, World Heritage Bavaria

**Dr. Büttner, Thomas**

Head of the Bavarian Cultural Landscape Forum at the Bavarian State Association for Heritage Preservation, member of the Hessian State Monument Council, head of the Office for Local History and Cultural Landscape Preservation

**Prof. Dr. Dippold, Günter**

District heritage officer, Upper Franconia district Cultural and heritage preservation Monument preservation, regional history, scientific consulting, cultural promotion

**Gotzmann, Dirk**

Director of CIVILSCAPE – European Landscape Federation

Expert advisor at BHU – Bund Heimat und Umwelt in Deutschland (German Association for Local History and the Environment), responsible for media and public relations, sustainable and digital local history engagement, European and international cooperation

**Dr Gotzmann, Inge**

Federal Managing Director of BHU – Bund Heimat und Umwelt in Deutschland (German Association for Local History and the Environment)

### **International members since April 2026:**

**Dr. Andreas Gamerith (AT)/Monastic landscape Zwettl**

Archivist at Zwettl Abbey

**Danuta Karczewska (PL)/ Monastic landscape Łekno/Wągrowiec**

City of Wągrowiec/Regional Museum

**Dr. Radka Ranochova (CZ)/Monastic Landscapes Plasy**

Research Associate, Mariánská Týnice Museum

**Simon Vidic (SLO)/ Monastic Landscapes Sticna**

Curator, Museum of Christianity in Slovenia

### **STEERING CIRCLE**

Committee made up of representatives from the 17 partner sites.

This committee meets twice a year.

**BACKGROUND: Qualification of the project executing agency/transnational coordinator:**

As a result of the cooperation launched in 2018 as part of the **European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 (Echy)** between six monastic sites in four countries and other stakeholders at civic, municipal and scientific level, the transnational cooperation project "**Cisterscapes - Cistercian landscapes connecting Europe**" (2019-2023) developed from 2019 to apply for a serial European Heritage Label (EHL) for Cistercian monastic landscapes. This network of 17 partners in five countries implemented a number of projects as part of two transnational LEADER cooperation projects (TNC I and TNC II), including cultural landscape inventories, the design of the long-distance hiking trail "Cistercian Way", a hiking guidance system, interactive landscape models with an app, landscape films, training measures and international symposia. In each case, the project was supported by the district of Bamberg.

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*Bamberg, 06.05.2026*