MEGALITHIC ROUTES, engine for economic, social and cultural development in Sobrarbe



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Abundant heritage of the Prehistory in Sobrarbe

Schematic and Levantine rock art

Other archeological sites (caves, refuges, deposits...)

Prehistory in Sobrarbe

Megalithic monument:
-Circles of Stones
-Dolmens

Large territory without archeological prospecting





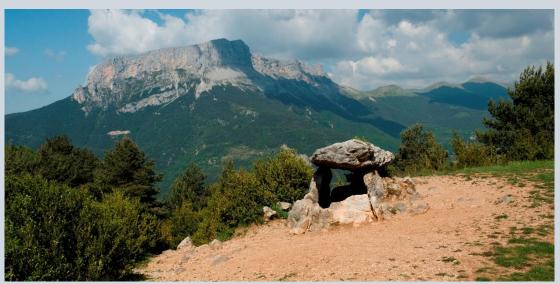






An important grouping of Megalithic Monuments in Sobrarbe









- -Nature + culture heritage
- -Shaping the landscape
- -Marking Milestones









Cultural Landscape

Result of the <u>interaction</u> over time, of people and the natural environment, whose expression is a <u>territory perceived and valued</u> for its cultural qualities. It is the product of a process and the support for the <u>identity</u> of a community.

National Plan for Cultural Landscape



There is a close union of the Heritage with the territory and with the local communities

Territory

Heritage





Local communities



The public is increasingly interesting in cultural heritage













Presence of different protection figures that protect and boost Heritage, in Sobrarbe



- -Three Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe
- -A UNESCO Global Geopark
- -Two goods inscribed on the World Heritage List by UNESCO
- -A good inscribed in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO
- -A UNESCO Biosphere Reserve
- -Other figures of nature protection (Natura 2000; Special Protection Areas for Birds, Natural Monument of the Pyrenean Glaciers, etc...)

-(...)

2. Megalithic Routes as an engine for development

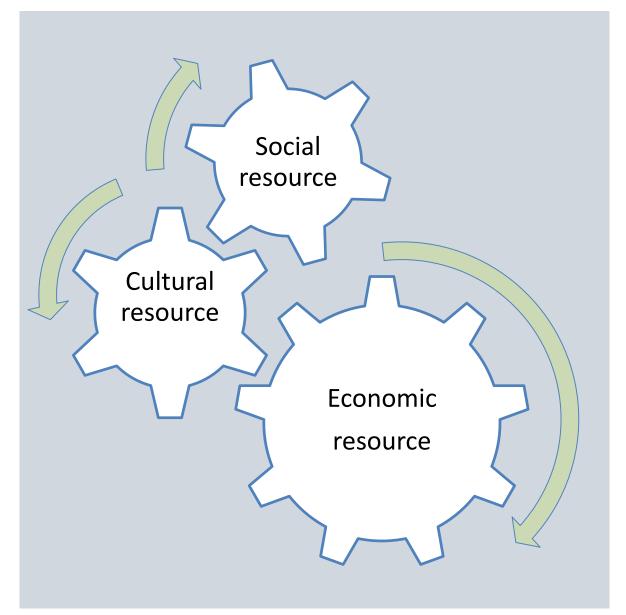


Cultural Heritage

Objetive: The development of people and their quality of live

Megalithic Routes:

Engaged tourism which contributes to local development and preservation

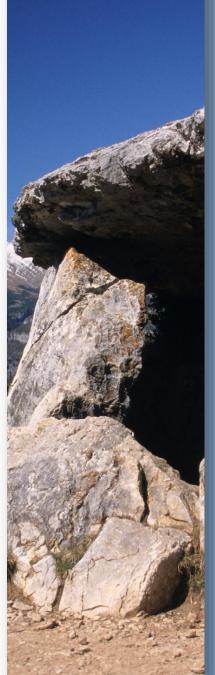


An important cultural resource

Because...

- -It expresses a common cultural heritage in Europe, since Prehistory.
- -It shows in an accessible way, the cross-cutting connections and converging movements which have shaped a common culture in Europe since Prehistory.





An important economic resource

Because...

- -It contributes to **identifying new ways** to promote our culture, landscape and heritage.
- -It **promotes cultural and sustainable tourism**, respecting local and regional identities, opposed to consumerist tourism.
- -It is an **economic asset that can generate wealth**, because there are millions of users who are willing to spend their money on visiting it, enjoy it, interpret and understand it.
- -Investment in heritage **generates new industries** and new infrastructures



An important **SOCial** resource

Because...

- -It causes a consolidation of the collective identity, both at a local level and at a European level.
- -It promotes the valuation or revaluation of own resources.
- -It promotes the recovery and conservation of our heritage
- -It promotes intercultural understanding.
- -It increases the knowledge of people about their society and about other societies







1. Co-operation in research and development:

- -enabling dispersed knowledge to be brought together;
- -showing how this theme is representative of European values and
- -promoting European values of coexistence.
- -working in a network with other European regions to achieve synergies

For example...

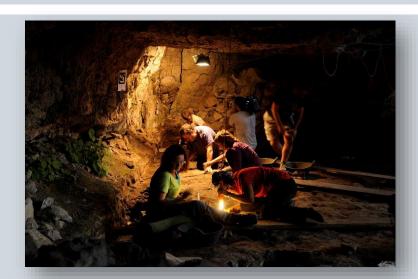
Realization of archaeological studies

Participation in training actions and exchange of experiences

Participation in the activities and meetings of the Megalithic Routes Association

(...)







2.-Enhancement of memory, history and European heritage

- -explaining its historical significance
- -highlighting their similarities in different regions of Europe
- -taking account of the heritage of ethnic or social minorities
- -contributing to raising awareness of:
 - the complex concept of heritage
 - the necessity to protect, interpret and communicate it
 - heritage as a means for sustainable development
 - heritage as a factor of challenges and opportunities for the future of Europe.

For example...

- -Organization of thematic days
- -Guided visits
- -Protection actions
- -Communication program with schoolchildren
- -Actuations directed to agents of communication of this heritage (tourist informants, teachers, etc.)
- -Opening up possibilities for co-operation between Sobrarbe and other regions









3. Cultural and educational exchanges for European people

- -in order to promote:
 - the concept of European citizenship
 - our common heritage

For example...

- -co-operation activities which involve:
 - educational institutions at various levels, and
 - citizens in general

-In several subjects:

- -management
- -research
- -communication (...)







4. Promoting activities that:

- break down barriers between professionals and non
- unite the contemporary artistic creation and the megalithic landscapes.

For example...

- Programming cultural activities in the environment of the megalithic monuments.
- EXCAVA Programme
- Communication and awareness campaigns, workshops, etc.
- (...)







5. Promotion of cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development growing:

- tourist products
- tools targeting all potential publics

For example...

- -Thematic routes, interpreted
- -Creation of printed and digital promotional materials
- Promotion campaigns and marketing.
- -www.turismosobrarbe.com/rutasmegaliticas
- -(...)



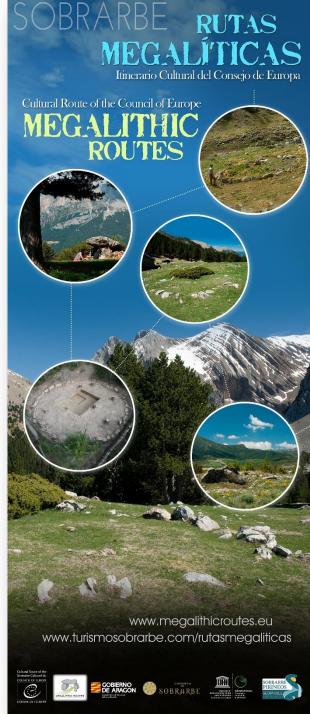


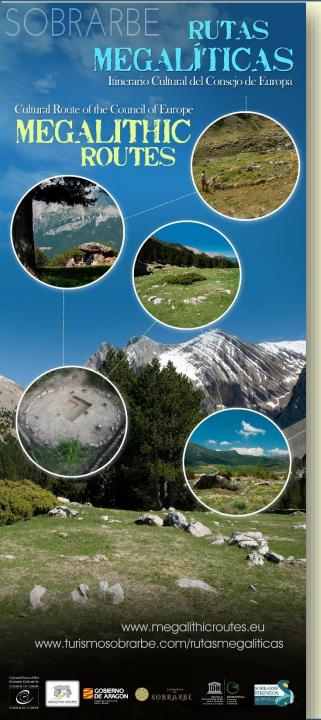


4. Conclusions



- 1.- Sobrarbe has got a rich megalithic heritage
- 2.-This heritage and the participation of Sobrarbe in the European Cultural Route "Megalithic Routes" offers great possibilities for cultural, social and economic development
- 3.-To develop this program, we have considered 5 main lines of action. We have carried out several actions, but we are still in an initial phase of this program, and it will be strengthened in the future.
- 4.-We are very keen to work in this area, and we are sure that our participation in this network **will help us** a lot.





www.megalithicroutes.es

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MEGALITHIC LANDSCAPES
AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
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