

# European Commission continues to support development of the Liberation Route Europe

Thanks to the renewed financial support of the European Commission, the Liberation Route Europe can start working on the further development of the route that connects regions in six countries through which the allied forces moved at the end of the Second World War. In 'The Next Level' the organisation and involving partners will work on several items and products like the training of guides and development of e-tourism along the route.

The Liberation Route Europe Foundation (LREF) is very proud that DG Growth recognises the importance of the European trail, says director Victoria van Krieken. "We call the project *'Liberation Route Europe The Next Level: towards an international remembrance route and organization'*. We are keen to show the world that we can keep the history of the Second World War alive. It is also a great opportunity for people to experience themselves what happened 70 years ago. We tell personal stories in an innovative way and want to share these stories with everyone."

## The past 18 months

Thanks to the European Commission, the LREF and its international key partners were able to start with the realization of the international remembrance trail through Europe two years ago. During these years, the route from Southern-England towards Poland was officially launched. Besides that, both an app and website, available in five languages, were introduced. Also other important developments, like the introduction of the first international packages were introduced.

## The next 18 months

Improvement and development are keywords within 'The Next Level'. The website will be improved, there will be added more storylines as well as content to both the site and app. Also, the LREF and partners will work on the realization of physical markers in the landscape (in other countries than the Netherlands). Furthermore, the team will develop more transnational packages and tours, will train more guides and is looking for opportunities to introduce interactive tourism along the international route by using the app that works on gps for example.

## Partners involved

Within 'The Next Level' the LREF will work with various international partners like museums, governments, tour operators, historians and more. The partners are: Stadsregio Arnhem Nijmegen (Netherlands), Région Basse-Normandie (France), 44 screens (France), Bastogne War Museum (Belgium), Visit Kent (UK) Spirit of Remembrance (UK), Rureifel Tourismus e.v. (Germany), Alliierten Museum Berlin (Germany) and the Muzeum II Wojny Światowej Gdańsk (Poland).

