



This project is co-funded by the European Union

Arromanches/Elst, 6th of June 2014

Liberation Route Europe officially launched

High praise from Dutch minister of Defence Hennis-Plasschaert

“The Liberation Route Europe is a powerful symbol of the path of freedom.” That is what Dutch minister of Defence Janine Hennis-Plasschaert stated this morning during her speech at the launch of the international Liberation Route Europe. The route follows the path of the liberators in 1944-1945 towards a free Europe. “With this international liberation and commemoration route, our shared history will be made visible in a unique way, accessible and tangible to many”, said Hennis-Plasschaert during the ceremony that took place in French coast city Arromanches.

The European route is a culmination of close collaboration between eight prominent partners from various European countries and Liberation Route Europe Foundation director Victoria van Krieken is very proud of that, she said this morning at Arromanches. “Never before have Europeans come together as we have to collaborate on telling these stories from different perspectives. Therefore, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all partners in our international coalition who have contributed so much to this unique effort. I’m very proud that Liberation Route Europe is developing into a living book of places and stories that gives history and its silent witnesses – like the harbour here in Arromanches - a voice. To remind us that we can’t take freedom for granted.”

Website and app

The opening of Liberation Route Europe was accompanied by the launch of a renewed website (www.liberationroute.com) and a free ‘Liberation Route Europe’ app. Both the website and the app will be available in five languages: Dutch, English, French, German and Polish. Using GPS, the app provides users with all kinds of information relating to the events that took place along the route to a free Europe. It allows visitors to literally follow in the footsteps of the liberators. New information on the route, which is over three thousand kilometres long, will be added to the app and the site all the time. The unique app is available for iPhone (iOS7) and Android (4.0 and up).

European collaboration

Liberation Route Europe initially started out as a Dutch project, but has since developed into a European partnership on various levels. The most important partners are the Museum of the Second World War in Gdansk (Poland), the Alliierten Museum in Berlin and Rureifel Tourismus (both in Germany). In Great Britain it involves Visit Kent and in France the Mémorial de Caen and the Région Basse-Normandie. In the Netherlands the partnership involves the Arnhem-Nijmegen City Region, RBTKAN, VisitBrabant, Airborne Museum ‘Hartenstein’, Overloon War Museum and the National Liberation Museum 1944-1945.



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Vfonds and European Union

The vfonds (Dutch Foundation for Peace, Freedom and Veteran Support) is dedicated to creating awareness and respect for uniformed personnel serving the Netherlands, anywhere in the world. Moreover, the vfonds strives to keep the memory of war alive by supporting war and resistance museums, as well as commemoration centres. The vfonds also gives financial support to the Liberation Route Europe Foundation. In this way, the vfonds can contribute to knowledge about military operations and the consequences for civilians and uniformed personnel who work for peace and security. More information about the vfonds can be found at www.vfonds.nl.

The Liberation Route Europe Foundation also receives financial support from the European Union for the European project as part of the DG Enterprise programme.

End of press release

(Note for editors, not for publication)

For more information about the press release, please contact press and communications advisor Jeroen van Wieringen: j.vanwieringen@liberationroute.com | +31(0)6 4671 0033

The attached picture is free of use. From left to right you see: Dutch minister of Defence Janine Hennis-Plasschaert, Director Victoria van Krieken of the Liberation Route Europe Foundation, chairman Jurriaan de Mol of the Liberation Route Europe Foundation, Dutch ambassador in Paris Ed Kronenburg and Remi Praud of the Liberation Route Europe Foundation