

The LRE Foundation is a growing international, inclusive network that connects people and organisations dedicated to preserving and valorising the tangible and intangible cultural heritage related to World War II, its memory and meaning. The organisation's main objective is to make this history relevant and accessible, especially for the younger generations.



History

The LRE Foundation (LREF) has its roots as a regional project in the Arnhem-Nijmegen region. In 2008, three of the area's museums – the Freedom Museum in Groesbeek, the Airborne Museum "Hartenstein" in Oosterbeek and the War Museum in Overloon – joined forces with Tourism Veluwe Arnhem Nijmegen (TVAN) to raise awareness of local World War II history by telling its stories and promoting its remembrance sites by creating a "liberation route". In 2011 a Dutch organisation (Stichting/Foundation) was established with an office in the Netherlands (2013) and Belgium (2014).

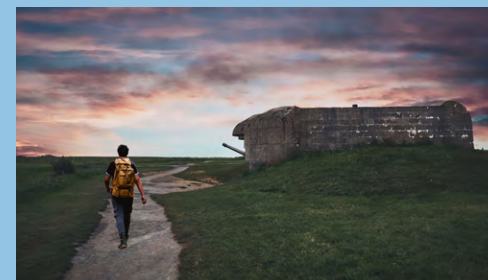
Structure

The international non-profit organisation is headquartered in Belgium and the Netherlands. New national branch organisations have been established in Italy (2019), Germany (2020), and the UK (2021). An International Supervisory Board oversees the administration of the organisation, while an Historical Advisory Board, comprised of leading historians, works to define the organisation's historical scope, content, and research. Since 2012, Mr. Martin Schulz, Member of the German Bundestag and former President of the European Parliament, has served as the patron.

Funding

LREF has been supported financially by the National Fund for Peace, Freedom and Veteran Care (vfonds) in the Netherlands since 2012, the European Union since 2013, and by the German Federal Foreign Office since 2020. The organisation also receives support in the form of memberships (from museums, tourism boards, associations, local/regional governments etc.) throughout Europe and North America.

Key initiatives



Liberation Route Europe

Liberation Route Europe is a certified Council of Europe Cultural Route that connects people, places, and events to mark Europe's liberation from occupation during World War II and to reflect on the long-lasting consequences and history of the war through a multi-national, multi-perspective approach. With hundreds of sites and stories in nine European countries, the route links the main regions along the advance of the Allied Forces in 1943-1945. To follow in the footsteps of history, visit: www.liberationroute.com



Europe Remembers

'Europe Remembers 1944-1945' is the premier European remembrance tourism destination brand that brings together commemorative sites and events in a collaborative, inspirational travel portal that promotes a reflection on the complex heritage of World War II from multiple historical perspectives. Join us on a journey today to discover the history, personal stories, events, and sites across Europe by visiting: www.europe remembers.com

The LRE Active Remembrance Youth Programme

The LRE Foundation is committed to promoting innovative active remembrance and memory transmission projects targeting the younger generations through the LRE Youth Programme. LREF has, for example, received two European grants for "History through their Eyes", an international travelling exhibition and student workshop (2017-2022) as well as a grant from the Starr Foundation (USA- 2019), for a joint project with National History Day for the Operation Liberty project, supporting American high school students travelling to Europe.

Our Multi-Perspective Historical Approach

The LRE Foundation promotes diversity by developing a multi-perspective understanding of the history of World War II. As each country had a different wartime experience, it is our goal to present each perspective in relation to each other.

The aim is showcase stories from individuals from all walks of life that show the complexity of the war and the lessons that we can draw from them.

Each major initiative of the LRE Foundation has a different scope. The Liberation Route focuses on the latter years of the war between July 1943 until May 1945

by emphasising the liberation of Europe, while Europe Remembers encompasses the entire course of the war. For each, historical content creation is curated by experts from many different countries and supervised by a historical advisory board comprised of preeminent historians.

LRE Foundation

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PARTNERS & SPONSORS



Network & membership



Since 2017, the LRE Forum is an annual three-part event organised by the LRE Foundation comprising of the LRE Conference, the LREXPO and the LRE Gala.

LRE Conference

The LRE Conference serves to inform, to inspire, and to connect all the LRE Foundation's members, network, stakeholders, and the general public. Included is an update on the LRE Foundation's activities, upcoming projects, and interesting in-depth keynotes or panel discussions.

LREXPO

The LREXPO is thematic trade show that showcases the many European destinations sharing the heritage and experiences of World War II. Each year representatives from remembrance sites, museums, and tourism destinations network with the travel trade stakeholders to offer unique tourism products and to form partnerships to reach a broader international audience.

LRE Gala

The LRE Gala is a special event for the members of the LRE Foundation, its key partners and sponsors. The evening's activities include networking opportunities, inspiring guest speakers as well as a new members' ceremony.



The Network

The LRE Foundation is a network of hundreds of organisations from many countries, and different background and areas of expertise, and includes: museums, universities, local/regional/national governments, war grave commissions, veteran and remembrance associations, commemorative event organisers, tourism authorities and destination management organisations, tour operators, tour guides etc. The LRE network is broad and diverse, bringing together the major stakeholders involved in memory transmission work. The role of the LRE Foundation is to serve as an intermediary between those organisations, to be the catalyst of cooperation and the development of common projects as well as a platform for shared opportunities.

Membership offers

Since 2016, the LRE Foundation is a member-based organisation. LRE Foundation Membership means joining an international, dynamic network that contributes to a collective effort to develop meaningful remembrance projects and supporting mutual efforts to keep the memory alive and to preserve our shared heritage.

For more information about our membership offers, contact us:
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LRE Foundation

To remember the past is to create a better future

