

Deliverable 8.2: Inventory of rural sites and stakeholders

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This document summarizes the features of the inventory of pilgrimage routes over Europe and related information, included as sections of the project's website.



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1. Introduction

The rurAllure website (www.rurallure.eu) is intended not only to provide an up-to-date view of the project's goals, activities and outcomes, but also to become a source of information about the pilgrimage routes of Europe. The inventory Deliverable 8.2 was thus conceived as an open database and interactive map of rural venues and heritage sites, in different levels of proximity to the main pilgrimage paths, and a directory of relevant stakeholders active in the promotion of culture and tourism. It is mainly targeted at organizations working at the crossroads of pilgrimage, rural development, cultural heritage and tourism, interested in knowing related initiatives in other European territories, as well as the regulatory framework that affects them.

This document explains briefly the inventory features implemented as of December 2021, as well as the featured planned for future updates of the website.

2. Current features

The key feature of the inventory –the interactive map of rural venues and heritage sites– is built on top of a database that models **pilgrimage routes** as first-level entities. One route (e.g., the Way of St. James) may contain several **sub-routes** or branches (e.g., the French Way, the English Way or the Silver Way). For each route or sub-route, the database can store a sequence of **segments**, with the following fields for each:

- Country.
- Regional entity: region, province, county, state, etc.
- Length (in kilometres).
- Starting location (longitude, latitude).
- Ending location (longitude, latitude).
- GIS data: precise coordinates (if available) of the path leading from the starting location to the ending location.
- Managing body (name and link).
- Relevant stakeholders (names and links).

The visualization of the information is as shown in Figure 1, with a menu allowing to browse the list of routes and sub-routes, the segments displayed on the accompanying map, and the information about managing bodies and relevant stakeholders shown on a scrollable panel. If GIS data of the exact path leading from the starting location to the ending location of a given segment is not available, a straight line is represented instead.

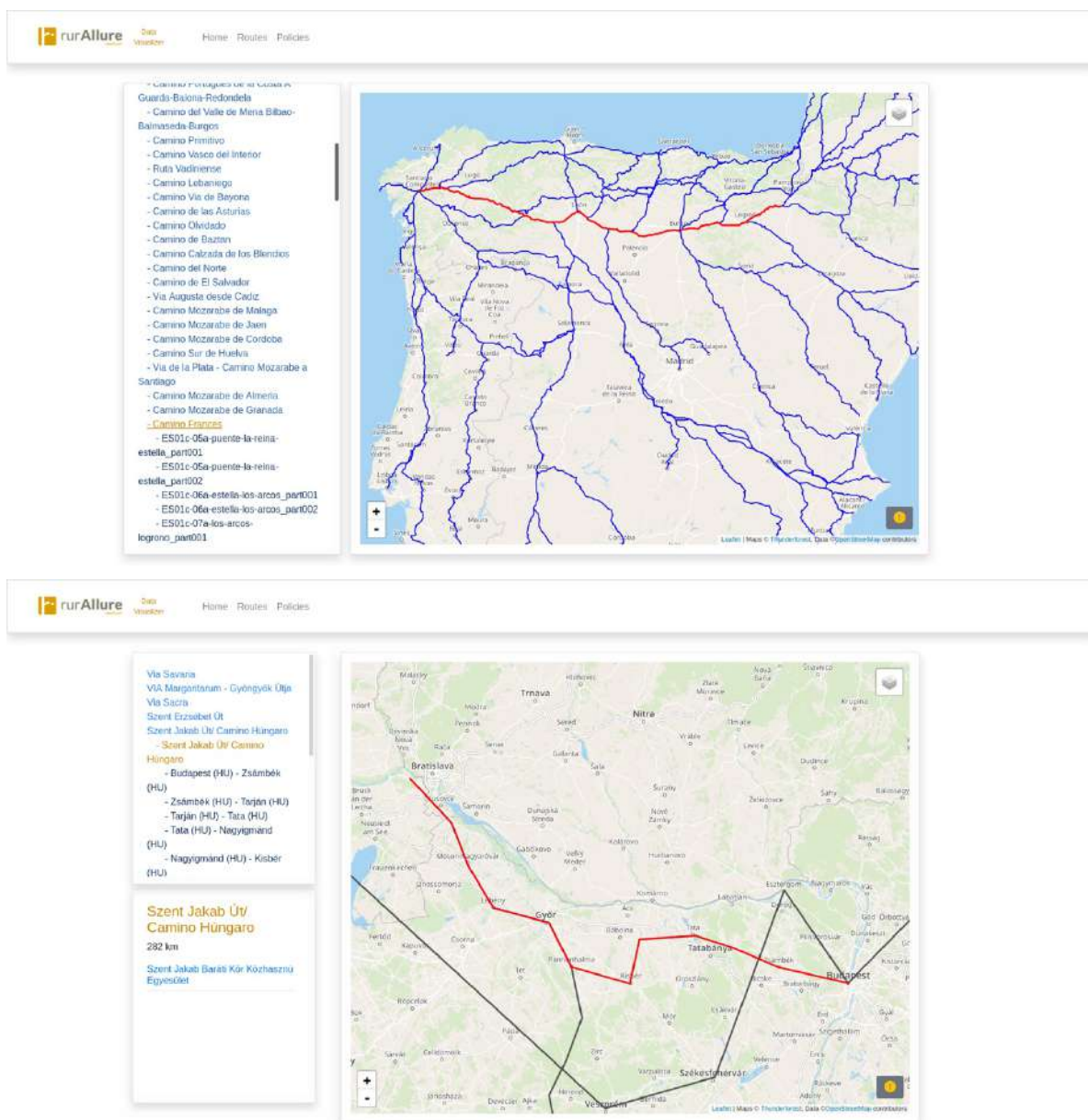


Figure 1. Visualizations of routes, sub-routes, segments and related organizations.

The visualization can also display the **rural venues, heritage sites and accommodation services** (among others) uploaded to the rurAllure IT platform as Points of Interest (POIs). There is also the possibility of displaying a set of **isochrones** as polygons with a gradient of colours to show how long it takes to reach the POIs from the official paths (Figure 2).

The other major feature of the inventory was added after the intensive work conducted by the rurAllure partners in surveying the laws and policies relevant to the topics of cultural heritage, tourism, rural development and pilgrimage/hiking trails in the countries touched by the pilots of WP4, WP5, WP6 and WP7: Spain, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland, France, the United Kingdom, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Norway.

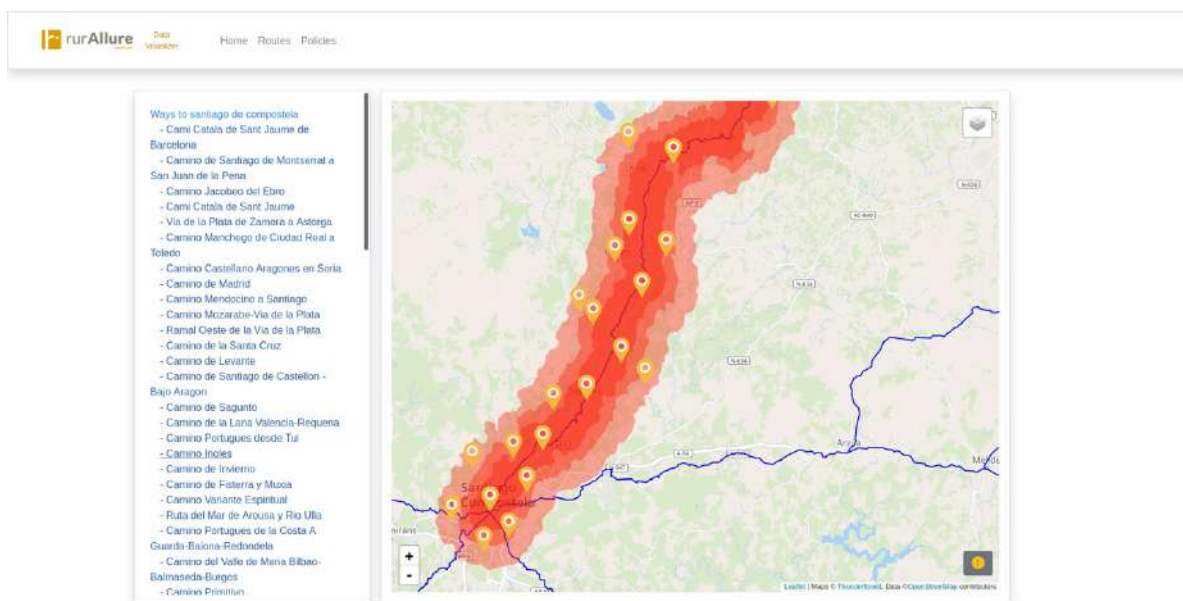


Figure 2. Isochrones showing a set of POIs in different ranges of distance from the pilgrimage route.

This study was made by NUTS regions, as explained in Deliverable 2.8 (“Policy brief”). Accordingly, the visualization of **laws/policies** and **policymakers** relies on a menu and a map that allow to navigate the NUTS regions of the aforementioned countries and display the links to the pertinent documents and web pages (see Figure 3).

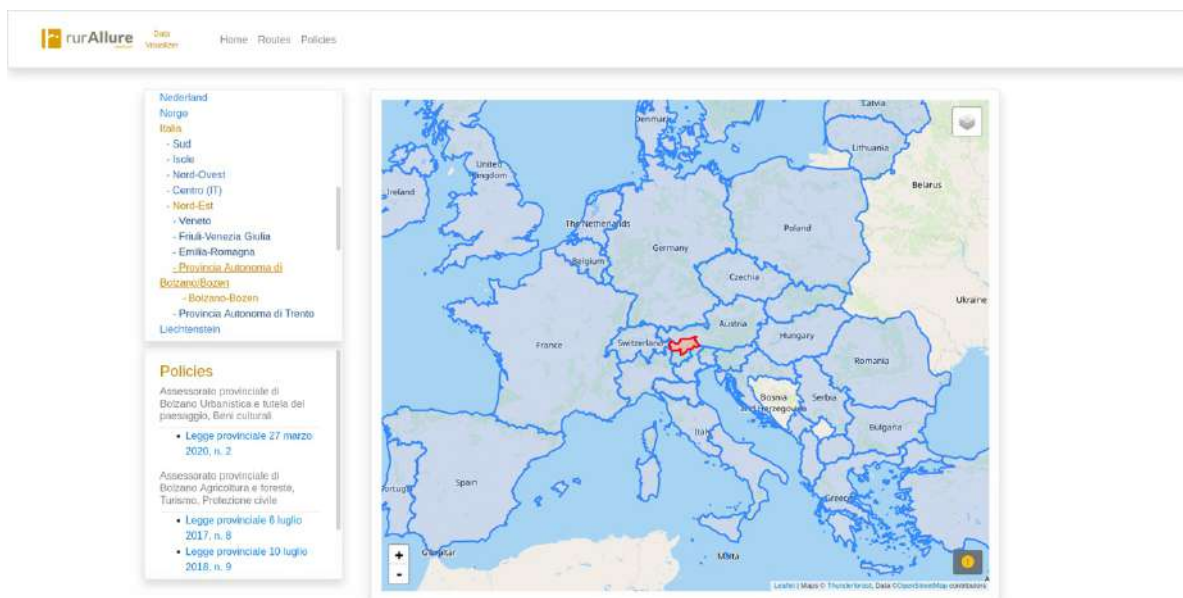


Figure 3. Visualization of laws/policies and policymakers by NUTS regions.

The two visualizations include a button that the visitor to the website may click on in order to submit corrections or requests for adding new bits of information. A form is displayed as shown in Figure 4, and the information entered on it is sent to a server of the rurAllure IT platform

along with data about what the visitor was watching exactly, in order to facilitate the task of contextualizing the input and, if pertinent, add new records to the inventory's database – pending the approval of the platform's administrator(s) for the route, as explained in Deliverable 3.1 (“*rurAllure platform – beta version*”).

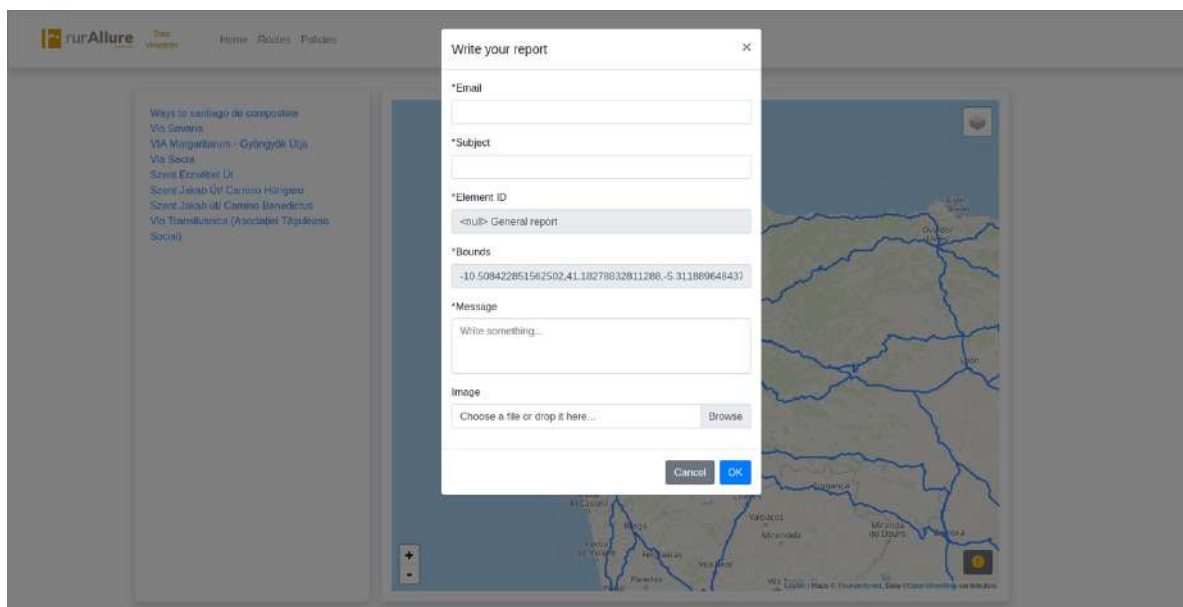


Figure 4. The form to provide corrections or new information.

3. Future updates

Future updates of the inventory will include the following:

- Displaying the info sheets of the POIs kept on the rurAllure IT platform, as well as specialized sheets with additional fields for certain types of POIs when available (e.g., information about historical aspects or water parameters in the case of thermal heritage sites, as surveyed in WP5).
- Showing isochrones computed by taking into account the means of transport used (currently, the isochrones are computed considering pilgrims on foot).
- Links to the featured trips and the narratives stored on the rurAllure platform.
- User experience improvements: easier navigation, faster loading times, etc.
- Extended coverage of the information, relying on contributions from organizations that sign collaboration agreements to become associated partners of rurAllure (see D2.1, “*Common strategies for pilots*”, for the list as of December 2021).



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