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FRENCH HIKING FEDERATION

EXPERTISE BEYOND BORDERS

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PRESENTATION

Founded in 1947, the French Hiking Federation (FFRandonnée), an association originally specialized in the design and creation of trails, became a sports federation in 1978. Alongside its activities in organizing and promoting hiking, it also develops community life, encourages sports participation, as well as tourism and leisure, discovery, environmental preservation, and territorial development.

FROM ITS ORIGINS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRUE EXPERTISE

If the first section of the GR® was inaugurated in 1947 and the first guidebook appeared ten years later, FFRandonnée has traveled a long and winding path to reach the present day. Beyond the marked trails it has succeeded in structuring, maintaining, digitizing, and promoting, FFRandonnée also managed to develop and support its practices and practitioners.

As a truly shared associative structure, it has deployed a set of educational tools, including a core training program aimed at its network of volunteers and other professionals.

More recently, its investment in a comprehensive digital program has notably enabled the launch of a mobile application (MaRando®).



THE TRAILS, THE LIFEblood OF THE FEDERATION

FFRandonnée's activities have been built around trails: it has structured a network of GR®, GR® de Pays, and PR routes through their creation, waymarking, maintenance, digitization, and promotion. Today, with 226,500 km of marked trails across France and its overseas territories, FFRandonnée contributes significantly to the tourist offerings of local territories.

To support these trail networks, FFRandonnée leverages its numerous publications—both digital and print (Topoguides, Topocartes, the MaRando® app...)—to showcase its routes and encourage hiking. It also serves as an advisor and expert for local authorities wishing to develop, maintain, or enhance their trail offerings.

Because FFRandonnée holds the intellectual property rights for the GR® and GR® de Pays, their official certification—which aims to guarantee the quality and long-term sustainability of the trails—also falls within the Federation's responsibilities.



CYPRUS: in 2022, leveraging its expertise, FFRandonnée supported the Cypriots in creating and harmonizing hiking trails, developing a training program for trail management and local activity leaders, and promoting Cyprus as a destination to French hikers.



COTE D'IVOIRE : in 2023, an agreement was signed with the Ivorian Hiking Federation (FIRAPE). Among other initiatives, this partnership aims to create waymarked trails: one has already been marked in Banco National Park. FFRandonnée offers to adapt its federal guidelines to the Ivorian context. Urban trail development has also been considered in Abidjan, particularly in the Cocody district and around Grand-Bassam. Additionally, a plan for developing hiking tourism with the support of the Ivorian Ministry of Tourism has been envisioned. The essence of the project is to create marked hiking trails that highlight the landscapes, local communities, biodiversity and traditions.



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PRESENTATION



AFRICA: in 2023, a multi-year agreement was signed between FFRandonnée and the African Confederation of Hiking (CARP) with the aim, among others, of developing a framework for GR®, GR® de Pays, and PR trails through the creation, waymarking, maintenance, digitization, and promotion of hiking routes across Africa.

Beyond this initiative, FFRandonnée has committed to sharing and exporting its expertise in trail management to CARP and to the member African states.



LEBANON: in 2024, a partnership was established with the Lebanese association Lebanon Mountain Trail Association (LMTA). The association aims to draw inspiration from FFRandonnée to develop reference documents that will help maintain and expand their trail network, based on FFRandonnée's official materials (such as the waymarking charter and trail certification standards). Collaborative work with LMTA is currently underway.



QUEBEC: for many years, FFRandonnée has maintained a close relationship with the association Rando Québec, a non-profit organization that promotes hiking and snowshoeing in Quebec. The latter expressed interest in collaborating with the creators of the GR® brand in order to benefit from its reputation. Consequently, a multi-year partnership was launched to:

- Draft a waymarking specification based on existing practices.
- Register the "GR Aventure" trademark.
- Conduct an initial pilot project in Quebec and develop a plan to roll out several routes.
- Organize an observation mission for a French delegation to Quebec in 2025.
- Adapt the GR® certification procedures and create a specification framework that could later be applied internationally while taking into account the local context.

PRESENTATION

ORGANIZATION OF PRACTICES AND PARTICIPANTS

While hiking routes represent the very DNA of FFRandonnée, they are not sufficient on their own. The Federation also works to develop and promote hiking through the organization of hiking events and the support of community life within its network of associations. It also represents the interests of hikers at large.

FFRandonnée has successfully structured hiking practices in all their forms and for all audiences: family hikes, sport hikes, long-distance treks, Randos Challenges®, Rando Santé®, snowshoeing, endurance walking, Nordic walking, and more. With a steadily growing number of members over the past 20 years, the Federation now has more than 200,000 members.



COTE D'IVOIRE : as part of the agreement signed between FFRandonnée and the Ivorian Hiking Federation (FIRAPE), support was planned for the organization of the African Hiking Cup, including the participation of teams or clubs from FFRandonnée. The Federation also committed to organizing, developing, and promoting hiking in all its forms on behalf of FIRAPE.

TRAINING AS A STRUCTURING TOOL

FFRandonnée has a dedicated Training Department which, in 2024, trained 6,297 trainees and 72 trainers during 650 sessions.

Organized around hiking leader training courses, specific workshops on the discovery of natural and cultural heritage, and trail maintenance and waymarking training sessions, the Federation continues to invest heavily in this area.

This expertise, which historically served a volunteer audience, could tomorrow become a genuine tool for professionalization, contributing to the economic development of local territories.



LEBANON: As part of its partnership with Lebanon, FFRandonnée plans to develop training materials based on its official training frameworks for "Hiking Leaders," "Data Collectors," "Waymarkers," and "Trail Planners."



COTE D'IVOIRE : as part of the agreement signed between FFRandonnée and FIRAPE, a training plan for hiking leaders and trail planners/waymarkers was developed based on a single comprehensive program leading to certification. This initiative was carried out by a dedicated team of trainers with the goal of training future instructors. An initial training session took place in November 2022, followed by a second in November 2023 for sports educators working in schools. The topics covered included: waymarking, trail categories, urban hiking and event organization, map-to-field orientation, hike preparation, landscape reading, field leadership, environmental awareness, pace chart development, use of GPS for route mapping, and a demonstration of the MaRando application.



AFRICA: as part of the agreement with CARP, FFRandonnée committed to training the Executive Committee of FIRAPE (hiking leaders, waymarkers/data collectors, and trail planners). This training aims to adapt the French model to the African context by merging the curricula for waymarkers/planners and hiking leaders. FFRandonnée is now leading a project to independently roll out this training program in other CARP member countries.

PRESENTATION

GOVERNANCE AT THE HEART OF PRIORITIES

FFRandonnée is built on a shared associative governance model supported by a network of territorial actors. Its democratic and structured operation relies on key contributors – the departmental and regional committees, as well as the clubs – which play an active and ongoing role across all areas of the Federation's activities.

Committed to avoiding insular decision-making and to drawing on the expertise of all relevant stakeholders, FFRandonnée is also a member of several networks, including international ones such as the European Ramblers' Association (ERA).



LEBANON: Beyond the desire to establish a structured system for planning and managing hiking trails in Lebanon, the Lebanon Mountain Trail Association (LMTA) has recently sought the advice and expertise of FFRandonnée to support them in the possible creation of a Lebanese Hiking Trails Federation. LMTA operates as a non-profit association, a model inspired by France's 1901 law on associations, and therefore closely aligned with that of FFRandonnée.



COTE D'IVOIRE : FIRAPE and FFRandonnée have signed a mutual membership agreement: FIRAPE is now an associate member of FFRandonnée, and FFRandonnée is likewise an associate member of FIRAPE.

FFRandonnée 
www.ffrandonnee.fr



THE MAIN AREAS OF ACTION OF FFRANDONNÉE



LAND MANAGEMENT & TERRITORY PRESERVATION

Waymarking, monitoring & maintenance

- Waymarking, conducting environmental and technical monitoring, maintaining and preserving hiking trails.

Consulting & expertise

- Providing advice and assessments for the creation and improvement of hiking routes across territories.

Digitization & geolocation

- Digitizing routes and points of interest within a database to facilitate access to information and optimize territorial management.



TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT & ECONOMIC GROWTH

Promotion, events & activities

- Bringing territories to life and fostering green tourism through the organization of hiking events and activities.

Publications

- Promoting trails through both print and digital media.

Trail certification

- Labelling and certifying GR® and GR® de Pays routes.



SKILLS TRANSFER & SOCIAL CONNECTION

Development of practices

- Training in waymarking, hiking leadership, and new forms of hiking practices.
- Making hiking accessible to promote well-being and social cohesion.
- Revitalizing underdeveloped or underserved areas.

To learn more about FFRandonnée's work: [2024 Activity Report](#)

TODAY, FFRANDONNÉE REAFFIRMS ITS POSITION ON MAJOR SOCIAL ISSUES

Through its motto “Walk, everyone, everywhere, all the time!”, FFRandonnée’s 2021-2028 federal plan reflects its ambition for inclusion, outreach, and the expansion of its expertise and know-how.

Beyond compliance with the laws and regulations that govern it, FFRandonnée remains deeply committed to the associative values that have shaped its history. As a delegated body of the French Ministry of Sports for hiking and long distance (sea walking), FFRandonnée is a non-profit organization under the French 1901 law, dedicated to serving the public interest.

Moreover, it has taken a proactive stance on key social issues such as sedentary lifestyles, population aging, social cohesion, slow tourism, and health. At the crossroads of multiple societal themes—including sport and active mobility—FFRandonnée has long engaged in dialogue and built partnerships with public authorities and various sports federations since its creation.

THE INTEGRATION OF HIKING INTO NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS

By promoting the discovery of natural spaces on foot, FFRandonnée actively contributes to sustainable development through its Agenda 21 program. Protecting nature and the environment by preserving trails, defending public paths, and fostering appreciation for landscapes are all integral parts of its DNA.

The Federation regularly conducts awareness and engagement campaigns. Its volunteers collect and report environmental damage observed in the field or communicated to them by hikers and hiking clubs. More recently, FFRandonnée has launched an impact study to assess how hiking practices affect the environment.



EUROPE: For the past three years, FFRandonnée has been jointly organizing seminars with the European Ramblers’ Association (ERA) dedicated to sharing best practices and conducting comparative studies. In 2023, in Soulac, the focus was placed on coastal areas, highlighting the effects of climate change and erosion-related challenges on hiking trails. The flagship E-path 39, connecting the Baltic States to Portugal, served as a case study. In November 2024, in Paris, the third European Conference on Trails and Routes was held under the theme of sustainability. Among the key topics discussed were the National Observatory project on hiker mobility, the development of new hiking practices and their environmental impact, and the European Hiker’s Charter—an initiative aimed at creating a harmonized awareness document at the European level.



Hiker's Charter – FFRandonnée

PRESENTATION

WALKING AT THE HEART OF URBAN MOBILITY

While FFRandonnée has long been a major player in outdoor sports, it has more recently committed to addressing climate change and ecological transition—particularly through the promotion of walking in urban environments.

Indeed, FFRandonnée considers it its responsibility to contribute to the preservation and development of urban walking, an activity that lies at the core of today's social model and is central to issues such as urban planning, health, climate change, quality of life, and social connection.

FFRandonnée aims to leverage its extensive experience in rural land development to benefit urban policies in areas such as city planning, culture, tourism, health, and education, thereby contributing to improving quality of life in urban spaces. The Federation is also building partnerships with several European public and non-profit organizations that advocate for walking and for the recognition of pedestrians' place in the city.



EUROPE : Since 2021, and every two years, FFRandonnée has been the initiator and main organizer, on behalf of Place aux Piétons, of the National Meetings on Urban Walking. In Rennes (2025), Reims (2023), and Marseille (2021), the events have showcased European experiences and perspectives.



BELGIUM: The concept of the Barometer of Walkable Towns and Villages, developed by the collective Place aux Piétons—of which FFRandonnée is a member—has spread beyond France's borders to Belgium. The Belgian association Tous à pied reached out to the collective to adopt and implement the idea.



COTE D'IVOIRE : As part of the urban hiking project in Abidjan, specifically within the municipality of Cocody, the idea of creating thematic "in-city" hiking routes has been proposed.



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PRESENTATION

WELL-BEING, SOCIAL CONNECTION & INCLUSION

Committed to promoting hiking in all its forms and for all audiences, FFRandonnée works to strengthen social bonds between people and territories, to foster community engagement, and to ensure access to a truly popular sport.

Through its endowment fund Esprit Rando, FFRandonnée reinforces its commitment to inclusion—by making hiking accessible to people with disabilities and isolated populations—while also supporting territorial development, health, and well-being by encouraging soft mobility and combating sedentary lifestyles. It is equally dedicated to protecting biodiversity and raising awareness of environmentally responsible behavior.

Thanks to its network of trails, FFRandonnée provides access to nature, culture, and local territories, promoting interaction and exchange across populations and generations.

HIKING, A TRUE EDUCATIONAL TOOL

FFRandonnée offers training courses that provide the essential knowledge and skills needed for hiking, leading group hikes, and waymarking trails. It also implements initiatives to raise awareness about and protect the environment.

Furthermore, the Federation engages with young audiences through various educational programs, such as the “One Trail, One School” project, which promotes the concepts of sustainable and local development by teaching students to respect and protect the environment and to value the cultural heritage found along hiking paths.

FFRandonnée is also involved in developing educational programs aimed at fostering a walking culture in urban areas.

HIKING AS A DRIVER OF TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

Convinced that hiking should be recognized as a key driver of ecotourism, FFRandonnée is committed to ensuring that its discipline plays a central role in tourism development. Its recognized expertise in the creation, management, and promotion of hiking trails is placed at the service of numerous local and regional authorities.

Across all its international initiatives—by training future instructors and/or creating waymarked trails—FFRandonnée helps stimulate local economies, contributing to the social and economic transformation of territories.

Through its activities, FFRandonnée ensures that this economic development is built on a balance between promoting territories and preserving them.



AFRICA: FFRandonnée aims to develop hiking across Africa by promoting physical activity for all and improving public health.

In Côte d'Ivoire, hiking is primarily viewed through a sporting lens.

Through this approach, FFRandonnée demonstrates its commitment to raising awareness among local populations about the health and well-being benefits of hiking, while encouraging the practice of a physical activity that is accessible to everyone.



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SHARING KNOWLEDGE & EXPANDING BEYOND BORDERS

With over 70 years of expertise, FFRandonnée now contributes to the international influence of French outdoor sports and to the dissemination of French know-how in the field of hiking. It works to promote the exchange of information and best practices among organizations worldwide.

Today, FFRandonnée is a member of the European Ramblers' Association (ERA) and also leads territorial projects such as Project DESIR, which promotes long-distance hiking between mountain refuges and supports sustainable development in the cross-border regions of Spain, France, and Andorra.

FFRandonnée's influence and reach extend well beyond Europe: the network of hiking trails it has developed has become iconic on a global scale. Its decades of experience now give it full legitimacy to share its expertise internationally—fostering cooperation and knowledge exchange with hiking organizations in other countries to export and pass on its know-how.



AFRICA: every year, FFRandonnée takes part in the General Assembly of the African Confederation of Hiking (CARP).



"DESIR" : FFRandonnée, along with its regional and departmental committees located along the Pyrenean range, and in collaboration with the hiking federations of Aragon, Catalonia, and Navarre, the French Federation of Alpine and Mountain Clubs, and the General Council of Andorra, is working jointly to revitalize the hiking routes across the Pyrenees. This initiative, known as DESIR (Sustainable Economic Development through Itinerancy between Mountain Refuges), aims to foster a sustainable cross-border economy that supports accommodations and outdoor activities, provides training for refuge keepers and users, revitalizes transboundary trails, and improves energy infrastructures.

The ultimate goal is to ensure consistency between trails on both sides of the border, harmonize waymarking systems, and offer comprehensive digital documentation for hikers.

Furthermore, beyond its geographical reach, FFRandonnée seeks to make hiking a true driver of local development—positioning it within a broader dynamic that goes beyond sport and nature to encompass tourism and territorial enrichment.

The benefits for FFRandonnée are multifaceted: it strengthens its institutional image as an organization committed to international cooperation and the promotion of sustainable development, while also contributing to the export of high-quality French expertise.

This international engagement enhances its global visibility and reinforces its reputation as an organization that promotes core values such as well-being, discovery, and environmental preservation. It also enables FFRandonnée to build strong partnerships and diversify its activities, thereby deepening its skills and expertise in promoting hiking on a global scale.



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LOOKING AHEAD

The international expansion of FFRandonnée's expertise can take many forms—from supporting the creation, maintenance, and protection of marked or unmarked trail networks, to assisting with trail planning, waymarking, and signage, as well as promoting hiking and developing training programs.

FFRandonnée's ambition to extend its influence internationally is currently focused in particular on the African continent, with several projects already underway—both multilateral (e.g., the partnership agreement with the African Confederation of Hiking) and bilateral (e.g., with the Ivorian Hiking Federation).

To successfully carry out these initiatives, FFRandonnée, supported by its 20,000 volunteers and over 70 years of experience, adopts a collaborative approach that brings together the best expertise to achieve shared goals.

EXAMPLES OF INITIATIVES WHERE FFRANDONNÉE IS ACTIVE INTERNATIONALLY*



TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Provide guidance and tools to effectively structure hiking and walking tourism activities.
- Stimulate local economic development by supporting related services such as accommodation, restaurants, and local products, encouraging the creation of hiking routes and welcoming hikers whose presence generates local economic benefits.
- Develop hiking infrastructure: design attractive trails, ensure consistent waymarking and regular maintenance to guarantee high-quality experiences for hikers.



TRAINING, EDUCATION & AWARENESS

- Organize training sessions and train autonomous trainers.
- Raise awareness among local populations and visitors about the benefits of hiking.



PARTNERSHIPS & EXPERTISE

- Conduct preliminary assessment and feasibility missions.
- Build partnerships and professional networks with local stakeholders to support the sustainability and growth of various projects.



HEALTH & WELL-BEING

- Promote accessible physical activity to combat sedentary lifestyles and support mental health.

**Non-exhaustive list*

NETWORK OF PARTNERS

Networks of which FFRandonnée is a member



Organizations with which we have partnership agreements



Our institutional partners



TERRITORIAL NETWORK

110

committees

3 500

clubs

10 200

volunteer
trailblazers

215 000

kilometers of marked
trails

AFRICAN CONFEDERATION OF HIKING

In 2023, a multi-year agreement was signed between FFRandonnée and the African Confederation of Hiking (CARP) with the aim of sharing expertise on common issues such as the creation of marked trails, the use of the GR® brand, the training of trail planners, waymarkers, and hiking leaders, as well as environmental and sports education, and the development of hiking as a tourism offering. This collaboration will enable all willing member states of CARP to benefit from French know-how. The “Africa” project led by FFRandonnée is now a key initiative to support tourism and economic development in CARP member countries.

Indeed, despite the continent’s remarkable natural and cultural diversity, the potential for hiking-based sports tourism remains largely untapped. These countries face the challenge of offering accessible sports activities to local populations—both to combat sedentary lifestyles and to make outdoor recreation affordable and inclusive. The objectives are twofold: to establish sports infrastructure through marked trail networks, and to build a framework for guiding and supporting the development of hiking activities.

It is therefore essential to enhance these underutilized resources to stimulate activity and create sustainable economic opportunities. The need for specialized training tailored to local realities is clear for the effective development of hiking. By training qualified local professionals and volunteers on site, FFRandonnée’s project aims to ensure the long-term success of these initiatives while taking into account each region’s cultural, environmental, and economic context. This approach also promotes the sustainability and autonomy of hiking initiatives by strengthening local capacities and creating employment opportunities.

CHALLENGES



Support the structuring of hiking and walking tourism activities by providing guidance and tools to partner institutions.



Develop attractive sports infrastructure, including the creation of hiking routes, waymarking, and regular trail maintenance.



Establish partnerships, professional networks, and collaboration with local stakeholders to ensure the sustainability and growth of the project.



Raise awareness among local populations and visitors about the benefits of hiking, and promote accessible physical activity to combat sedentary lifestyles.



Stimulate local economic development by training guides, improving the reception of hikers, and supporting related services such as accommodation and local businesses.



ONGOING PROJECTS & DISCUSSIONS UNDERWAY



Côte d'Ivoire



Senegal



Benin

Gabon, Guinea and Burundi also expressed their interest during the 2024 CARP General Assembly in signing a potential partnership with FFRandonnée. Their goal is to benefit from support in trail planning and safety, as well as in the training of hiking leaders. Longer-term collaboration opportunities could also be considered.

COTE D'IVOIRE

The partnership agreement signed between the Ivorian Hiking Federation (FIRAPE) and FFRandonnée covers several key areas of cooperation: organizing and developing hiking in all its forms; structuring the GR®, GR® de Pays, and PR trail networks through the creation, waymarking, maintenance, digitization, and promotion of hiking routes; representing the interests of hikers to public authorities; contributing to the protection of nature and the environment (trail preservation, defense of paths and landscapes, etc.); training hiking leaders, waymarkers, data collectors, and trail planners; providing technical assistance to FIRAPE in organizing its activities; delegating its tourism registration to FIRAPE to allow it to offer hiking trips and tours; and finally, exporting French expertise in the field.



ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN

2022	Implementation of pilot training courses for trail planners, waymarkers, and trainers
2023	Participation of FFRandonnée in the Congress of the African Confederation of Hiking (18 countries) in Côte d'Ivoire. Signature of a partnership agreement with the African Confederation aimed at developing the creation of marked trails and the training of hiking leaders and waymarkers in member countries. Signature of a cooperation agreement between FIRAPE and FFRandonnée to formalize the exchange of expertise between the two federations.
2024	Completion of the training program in Côte d'Ivoire, attended by 50 participants. Field training session held during the African Hiking Cup, including the sharing of training methodologies adapted to African countries. Organization of a federal pilot trip in Côte d'Ivoire for 100 participants, from November 1 to 10. Participation of Séverine Ikkawi in Côte d'Ivoire during the General Assembly of the African Confederation of Hiking (CARP). Around 60 representatives from 23 member countries attended. An official delegation composed of representatives from CARP, FIRAPE, the French Federation "Sports for All", the International Federation "Sports for All", and FFRandonnée was received by Adjé Silas Metch, Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister in charge of Sports. A meeting was also held at the French Embassy with the president of FIRAPE
2025	Continuation of the training program for hiking leaders and waymarkers, based on a single comprehensive course leading to a certification (to be defined), delivered by a dedicated team of trainers with the goal of developing future trainers. Organization of the "Nos Pas Partagés" event in Paris.

PERSPECTIVES

2025, 2026, 2027	Project to create hiking routes in partnership with local authorities: developing trails to be waymarked and promoted as tourist attractions. The goal is to strengthen the concepts of sports tourism and heritage or memorial tourism centered around the “Slave Routes”. Sustainable economic models are to be planned to ensure the long-term viability of these initiatives.	Provision of educational tools contributing to the economic development of the territory. Knowledge transfer and social connection. Involve Côte d’Ivoire Tourisme and the Ministry of Tourism in the process: validating cultural and artisanal heritage, promoting hiking routes, designing related tourism products, and engaging managers of protected areas.
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After several “experimental” training sessions in Côte d’Ivoire, the goal is now to train instructors capable of independently delivering the training program. This will make it possible to effectively expand training efforts to other CARP member countries.

CHALLENGES



Promote sustainable tourism development in territories by ensuring a balance between enhancement and preservation.



Build the professions and markets of tomorrow by using hiking as a catalyst for the social and economic transformation of territories.



Promote, communicate, and publish on hiking to raise awareness among local stakeholders about the benefits of this activity.



Work for the common good by addressing shared societal issues such as sport, mobility, well-being, inclusion, health, and the environment, in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders.



Work hand in hand and carry out joint initiatives between the two countries.



“NOS PAS PARTAGÉS” : A FRENCH-IVORIAN ENCOUNTER UNDER THE SIGN OF SPORT AND TOGETHERNESS

On Saturday, July 5, 2025, FFRandonnée, CARP, FIRAPE, and the FFRandonnée Paris Committee organized an urban hike combining sport, well-being, and social cohesion – a unifying and symbolic event.

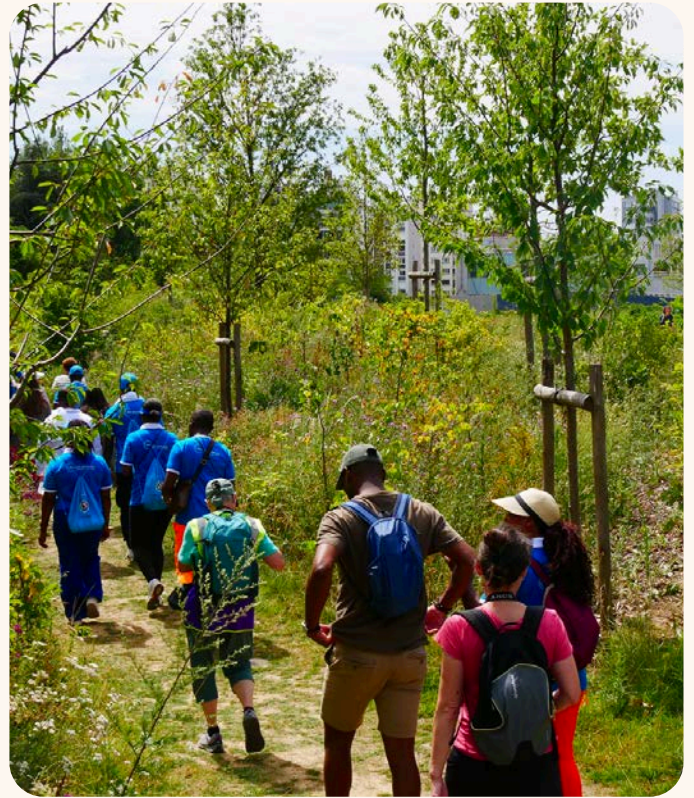
After welcome remarks from the President of FFRandonnée, the President of the African Confederation of Hiking, the President of the Ivorian Federation, and the President of the FFRandonnée Paris Committee, participants enjoyed a lively warm-up session before setting off to explore the streets and alleys of Paris’s 20th arrondissement.

Two routes were offered and led by the Paris Committee: one of 7 km and another of 9 km. As they walked through the streets of the capital, participants discovered the city in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

The Ambassador of Côte d’Ivoire to France, H.E. Maurice Bandaman, joined the 7 km hike in front of the Charonne Church to share this wonderful moment of sport and togetherness with the walkers.

After more than two hours of walking, participants gathered again on the Cours de Vincennes for a stretching session before enjoying the various activities marking the end of this beautiful day – including a boxing demonstration and a tasting of Ivorian culinary specialties.

The event brought together a wide range of participants: families, young people, seniors, regular athletes, and first-time walkers alike.



SENEGAL

Mangroves, islands, coastal regions, mountains, plateaus, deep valleys, and waterfalls make Senegal an ideal playground for hikers. The Niokolo-Koba National Park and the Fouta-Djalou Massif host a rich variety of wildlife and already offer hiking trails that cross diverse ethnic regions. Senegal is actively investing in the development of its tourism infrastructure, improving accommodations, transportation, and visitor services.

By engaging in the development of hiking leader and waymarker training programs in Senegal, FFRandonnée aims to foster a positive socio-economic impact by creating local jobs, stimulating small businesses, and contributing to regional development. This initiative also reflects its social responsibility by promoting a healthy lifestyle and protecting natural resources.

ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN

2023	Information meeting held during the CARP assembly to discuss a potential partnership with FFRandonnée.
2025	Definition of an action plan with the President of the Senegalese organization and signature of a partnership agreement with the Senegalese structure.

PERSPECTIVES

2025	Preliminary mission: a preparatory visit by an FFRandonnée expert aimed at meeting local stakeholders, defining the framework of the partnership, and proposing an operational plan.
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CHALLENGES



Training of club leaders: contribute to local economic development by training local guides on the health benefits of hiking and by encouraging the practice of a physical activity accessible to all.



Standardization of waymarking and trail development: create attractive routes, ensure consistent waymarking and regular maintenance to guarantee a high-quality experience for hikers.



Design of a tourism offering: support the structuring of hiking and walking tourism activities by providing guidance and practical tools for effective organization. Stimulate the local economy by improving hospitality for hikers and supporting related services such as accommodation, restaurants, and local products.



BENIN

Benin offers a rich diversity of landscapes and natural sites perfectly suited for hiking and ecotourism, such as the Pendjari National Park and the Atacora Mountains. Ecotourism initiatives are being encouraged to preserve the country's natural and cultural heritage, and the government has shown growing interest in developing the sports and tourism sectors.

During the training session conducted by FFRandonnée in Côte d'Ivoire, two Beninese trainees joined the Ivorian group. Through CARP, which provides valuable networking opportunities across African countries, new potential collaborations have emerged – notably with Benin, which has already expressed strong interest. The country aims to establish a partnership with the Federation, including the training of around 50 candidates, technical expertise on hiking routes, and support for the development of their Hiking Festival.

ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN

2023	Training session conducted by FFRandonnée in Côte d'Ivoire: two Beninese trainees joined the Ivorian group.
2024	FFRandonnée visit: first meeting with local stakeholders (the Beninese Hiking Federation) and the Ministry of Tourism to identify opportunities for collaboration. Benin's participation in an information meeting during the CARP assembly to discuss a potential partnership with FFRandonnée.

PERSPECTIVES

2026	Definition of an action plan with the President of the Beninese organization. Preliminary mission: a preparatory visit by an FFRandonnée expert aimed at meeting local stakeholders, defining the framework of the partnership, and proposing an operational plan.
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CHALLENGES



Training and professionalization of hiking leaders and waymarkers: training autonomous instructors to ensure the sustainability and expansion of the project. This program will help strengthen local capacities and promote the development of hiking tourism in the country.



Technical expertise on trail networks: conducting assessments and planning to create a sustainable tourism offering.

LEBANON

Outside Africa, a project was initiated with Lebanon in 2024. In June, a first meeting was held between the Lebanon Mountain Trail Association (LMTA) and FFRandonnée to discuss potential areas of partnership. Lebanon already has a long-distance hiking route similar to a GR® trail, crossing the country from north to south over more than 400 km.

A collaboration agreement, signed in September 2024 between FFRandonnée and LMTA, now allows both organizations to share their perspectives and expertise on common topics such as the creation of marked trails, training, environmental and sports education, and hiking as a tourism offering.

This partnership will also lead to the development of reference documents to support the maintenance, expansion, and structuring of the trail network in Lebanon, as well as the creation of training frameworks for local stakeholders.

ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN

2024	Reception of a Lebanese delegation composed of two members of the Lebanon Mountain Trail Association (LMTA) and a consultant: two days of working sessions with various FFRandonnée departments and experts (trail development, training, legal, communication, digital services, etc.). Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between LMTA and FFRandonnée, formalizing their collaboration and defining the framework for future joint initiatives, during an FFRandonnée visit to Beirut. Meeting with the University of Sports Science St. Antonine of Beirut with the aim of strengthening the link between academia and sports federations. The university expressed its intention to establish a partnership with FFRandonnée to reinforce the practical dimension of its training programs.
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PERSPECTIVES

2026	Preliminary mission*: a preparatory visit by an FFRandonnée expert aimed at meeting local stakeholders, understanding local specificities, defining the framework of the partnership, and proposing an operational plan. Provision of tools and expert support with the goal of creating training frameworks and adapting FFRandonnée's official reference documents regarding the maintenance, development, and creation of hiking routes. Standardization of Lebanese trails (waymarking and maintenance): drawing inspiration from the GR®, GR® de Pays, and PR models to ensure consistent quality in the creation, waymarking, maintenance, and digitization of routes, thereby guaranteeing a sustainable and high-quality tourism offering.
2027	Support for the initiative to create a Lebanese Hiking Trails Federation

*subject to geopolitical conditions allowing it

With



2025

CHALLENGES

Promote the economic development of territories through a combination of direct, indirect, and induced effects:



Rely on hiking as an educational tool by offering training programs, implementing awareness and environmental protection initiatives, and developing a professional framework that contributes to the economic growth of the territory, based on FFRandonnée's training and operational standards.



Act as a driver of ecotourism development by creating a sustainable and high-quality tourism offering: standardizing the waymarking system across the Lebanese trail network for the benefit of both locals and visitors, structuring hiking as an accessible activity for all, and promoting the discovery of both natural and cultural heritage.



Take inspiration from FFRandonnée's shared associative governance model with its regional and local stakeholders to operate in a democratic and organized manner. Establish partnerships with public institutions and other local actors.



Work for the common good by addressing key societal issues such as sport, mobility, well-being, inclusion, health, and the environment.



Draw inspiration from French expertise and know-how, and jointly promote a set of shared values.



CANADA

Across the Atlantic, Quebec stands out as an exceptional destination for hiking enthusiasts, thanks to its diverse landscapes — from majestic mountains to lush valleys and scenic riverbanks. A few years ago, Rando Québec initiated discussions with FFRandonnée with the goal of attracting new audiences to hiking, drawing inspiration from FFRandonnée's expertise as the founder of the GR® trail network, and developing new sports and tourism infrastructure across its territory.

ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN

2022	Visit of an FFRandonnée delegation to Quebec: meeting between the Quebec and French organizations with the aim of establishing a multi-year partnership.
2023	Signature of a partnership agreement between Rando Québec and FFRandonnée, aimed at fostering experience sharing between France and Quebec.
2023-2024	Start of work on the design of the specifications and the drafting of procedures.
2025	Drafting of the GR Aventure specifications by Rando Québec and its adaptation to a new type of trail network in France

PERSPECTIVES

2026	Registration of the GR Aventure trademark. Finalization of the French specifications. Promotion and implementation of "GR Aventure": the publication of official topographic maps and the organization of promotional campaigns could also be considered.
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CHALLENGES



Structure the tourism offering of the territory by drawing on FFRandonnée's expertise in trail certification, which ensures the quality and sustainability of routes and thereby supports stronger tourism development.



The momentum created with "GR Aventure" in Quebec could continue by expanding this label into a true international product, eventually extending it to other continents such as Africa, Asia, and Europe.



Addressing key social issues, this project also contributes to the growth of slow tourism, highlighting a more sustainable form of travel that aligns with the geographical and cultural specificities of Quebec while protecting the environment.

With

**RANDO
QUÉBEC**

2025



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