

February 25, 2026

Press Release

'Rashi of Troyes, European Place of Remembrance' awarded the European Heritage Label



'Rashi of Troyes, European Place of Remembrance' was awarded the European Heritage Label by the European Commission on February 25, 2026. This distinction crowns nearly three years of sustained work to prepare the application by the Public Interest Consortium (PIC) 'Rashi – Troyes and Aube in the Grand Est region'.

Rashi of Troyes is a place of remembrance with a strong European dimension in several respects. Rashi, born and deceased in Troyes (1040–1105), was a revolutionary exegete. His commentaries on the Hebrew Bible and Talmud, together with his responsa, became references for Jewish scholarship as early as the 11th century. Rashi inspired Jews and Christians alike, as well as philosophers and writers up to the present day. From the 12th century onwards, his disciples disseminated his writings, ideas and the values he embodied across a vast territory within what is now Europe. Hundreds of manuscripts produced by his school circulated widely and are now preserved in around forty European institutions. From the 15th century onwards, locations for printing these commentaries multiplied throughout Europe.

Rashi's great concern for women's dignity, his progressive and humanist spirit, resonate powerfully with the core values of the European Union: gender equality, tolerance and the promotion of freedom of expression.

In *Les Juifs, une tache aveugle dans le récit national* published in 2021 by Albin Michel, edited by Paul Salmona and Claire Soussen, historian Pierre Nora wrote: "What place of remembrance could I have chosen? Rashi ought to have been chosen... **Rashi is a place of remembrance!**".

Rashi's legacy in Troyes bears witness to the contribution of Jews and Judaism in shaping a diverse and open Europe since the Middle Ages.

The European Heritage Label

Introduced in 2005, the European Heritage Label recognises sites that reflect Europe's history and heritage. Sites are selected for their symbolic value and for the role they have played in European history, with three main objectives:

- help European citizens better understand the history of Europe and the development of the European Union, as well as their shared cultural heritage;
- raise awareness of the European dimension of these sites;
- strengthen intercultural dialogue, notably through artistic, cultural and historical education.

Together with twelve other newly designated sites, 'Rashi of Troyes, European Place of Remembrance' now joins a network of 67 European Heritage Label sites, including five in France (Maison Robert Schuman in Scy-Chazelles; the Abbey of Cluny; the European District of Strasbourg; the former Natzweiler-Struthof concentration camp and its satellites; as well as the Memorial Site of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon).

The PIC Rashi Application

The Public Interest Consortium (PIC) 'Rashi – Troyes and Aube in the Grand Est Region' was established on June 30, 2023 by the French State, the Grand Est Regional Council, the Aube Departmental Council, the City of Troyes and the Central Consistory of France, with the aim of preparing and steering the application of 'Rashi of Troyes, European Place of Remembrance' for the 2025 European Heritage Label selection.

The PIC's objective was to **promote the memory and European reach of Rashi and his intellectual school, the Tosafists**, highlighting their role in shaping a European identity as early as the Middle Ages.

The PIC Rashi application was the only French application selected and forwarded by the Ministry of Culture to the European Commission on February 28, 2025 and was preselected alongside twenty other European sites.

It showcases the European dimension of six iconic sites and commits to a series of scientific, cultural, tourism, educational and artistic initiatives:

- the old Jewish quarter in Troyes;
- the Rashi European University and Cultural Institute;
- Maison Rachi;
- the three murals along the Rashi Trail in Dampierre, Ramerupt and Lhuître.

The label was officially awarded by the jury nominated by the European Union on February 25, 2026!

Key Milestones:

- **February 8, 2023:** first steering committee meeting formally launching the labelling process led by the PIC Rashi
- **June 30, 2023:** signature of the constitutive agreement establishing the PIC Rashi
- **June 28, 2024:** submission of the initial version of the application to the French Ministry of Culture
- **November 8, 2024:** official submission of the application to the French Ministry of Culture
- **February 28, 2025:** submission of the application by the French State to the European Commission
- **February 25, 2026:** European Heritage Label awarded
- **April 2026:** official award ceremony in Brussels



[Press kit available for download here](#)

PIC Explained: A Public Interest Consortium (PIC) is a legal entity governed by French public law. It enables public and private partners to pool their resources in order to carry out missions in the public interest through a streamlined structure and flexible governance arrangements to facilitate cooperation between partners. A PIC operates within a defined geographical area.

The PIC Rashi includes:

- **5 founding members:** the French State represented by the Prefecture of Aube, the Grand Est Regional Council, the Aube Departmental Council, the City of Troyes and the Central Consistory of France
- **7 active members:** Troyes La Champagne Tourisme, Aube en Champagne Attractivité, Maison Rachi, the Rashi Institute, EDJC-France, the Community of communes Arcis-Mailly-Ramerupt, and the City of Vitry-le-François
- **1 operational team**
- **1 scientific council** with 29 European and international experts from a range of disciplines, including the humanities, the fight against antisemitism, cultural affairs, museology and museography, archives, heritage and innovation inventory, two rabbis and the Bishop of Troyes.

Next Steps

For more than thirty years, local authorities and the Jewish community of Troyes have actively supported the **creation of a place of remembrance** through:

- the founding in Troyes in 1989 of the Rashi European University and Cultural Institute and the Rashi Sphere;
- the inauguration of Maison Rachi in 2017;
- the creation in 2019 of the Medieval Route of Rashi in Champagne, followed in 2022 by the launch of the Rashi Trail in Ramerupt, Dampierre and Lhuître.

These sites are already instrumental in transmitting Rashi's legacy through educational, cultural, and artistic initiatives such as classes, conferences, walking routes, and tourist attractions.



With the European Heritage Label, the PIC Rashi will develop a coherent narrative route structured around this **network of six sites that carry the memory of Rashi**: the former Jewish quarter in Troyes, the Rashi European University and Cultural Institute, Maison Rachi, and the three murals of the Rashi Trail in Dampierre, Ramerupt, and Lhuître.

The **integration into European networks**, initiated in 2019, and the development of collaborative projects with other labelled European Heritage sites will help raise awareness among a broader audience.

Securing this label will help further this momentum, **strengthen cohesion between sites, and expand the cultural tourism offer, highlighting Rashi's European dimension** as a model of intellectual openness and tolerance.

Nicolas Honoré, President of the PIC Rashi

"I am particularly proud that our site – 'Rashi of Troyes, European Place of Remembrance' – was awarded the European Heritage Label. This recognition, as a testament to European history and to the construction of Europe, allows us to join five other French sites, the most recent – designated in 2020 – being the Le Chambon-sur-Lignon Place of Remembrance



Rashi's legacy is well known to Jewish communities worldwide, but far less so to the French, including those in Aube and even Troyes itself.

The mission of the Public Interest Consortium (PIC) Rashi is precisely to raise awareness of his memory and European influence from Troyes and the Aube, placing his story within the broader context of Europe's development as early as the 11th century.

Building on preparatory work initiated in 2021 by Josef Konvitz and Jean Daubigny – appointed by the Mayor of Troyes and the Chief Rabbi of France – the PIC has, since 2023, coordinated, steered, and unified stakeholder initiatives across the region. It reflects a shared determination to bring these actions together under a common banner, both serving the six physical sites and offering a global vision.

I trust that securing the label will accelerate this process and firmly establish Rashi's European dimension as a model of intellectual openness and tolerance."

Judith Kogel, Chair of the scientific council of the PIC Rashi



"We are delighted to have received the Label, and I thank the members of the scientific council wholeheartedly for their commitment over the past several years. For the scholars and researchers involved in this project, this distinction rewards three years of dedicated work and is, above all, recognition of the essential role played by Rashi, a native of Troyes, in the Middle Ages.

While no material evidence of his presence in Troyes has survived, the literary legacy he transmitted firmly anchors him in the history of Champagne and France. Promoting his memory will bring to light the intellectual and humanist legacy of Judaism in the historical development of France and Europe."