

Workshop "Via Francigena. Walking towards accessible tourism"

Ivrea, 17 April 2026

Speakers (*in alphabetical order*):



Andrea De Vicenzi, Performance Coach, experiential trainer, and Paralympic athlete. After a motorcycle accident at age 17, he turned a critical moment into a decisive turning point, using sports – cycling, triathlon, and long-distance hiking – to forge a path of resilience and determination. He has won European medals and achieved extreme feats on the international stage. Today, he combines his athletic career with work as a speaker and coach, supporting individuals, companies, and schools in developing self-awareness and overcoming their limits.



Paolo Facchin, President of the Via Francigena of Ivrea Association since 2016, he oversees institutional relations and the coordination of the association's activities. He is dedicated to promoting and highlighting the section of the Via from the border of the Aosta Valley to Viverone, with a particular focus on the area's cultural and natural heritage. He collaborates with organizations and associations to promote the culture of walking and support local development through slow, sustainable tourism.



Dario Sorgato, born in 1978 in Sant’Angelo di Piove di Sacco (PD), he has lived with Usher syndrome – a degenerative condition affecting both vision and hearing – since adolescence. After graduating with a degree in Design, he embarked on significant journeys, from Australia to a transoceanic crossing from Cape Town to Havana. It was on the Camino de Santiago that he found a new dimension, rediscovering in the slow rhythm of his steps a space for awareness, adaptation, and freedom.



Simona Spinola joined the EAVF staff in the summer of 2021, right in the midst of the “Road to Rome” initiative, to lead the Association’s communications team in celebration of EAVF’s 20th anniversary. With nearly 20 years of experience in the communications sector between Spain and Italy, she currently coordinates a team of professionals – proudly all women – to manage strategies for promoting the Via and communicating about European projects in which EAVF plays a leading role.



Agnieszka Stokowiecka is an official of the Autonomous Region of Valle d’Aosta and specialises in the planning, management, and coordination of projects funded by European and national grants. For years, she has been dedicated to developing policies for accessible and inclusive tourism, gaining experience in territorial cooperation programs such as Interreg Italy-Switzerland. She coordinates complex initiatives that integrate innovation, multilevel governance, and stakeholder engagement, promoting sustainable and replicable models.



Gloria Vellini works in the field of publishing and cultural communication, collaborating with the European Association of the Via Francigena and with the publishing house Zanichelli. She edited the book “*Sulla Francigena – Racconti in viaggio*” (On the Francigena – Stories on the Road) for Neos Edizioni and has published short stories and articles in various newspapers, including La Repubblica and Editoriale Domani. Her work focuses on storytelling about local areas and cultural outreach, with a strong emphasis on the value of stories and travel.



Viaggiatori in Carrozza (Travellers on Wheels), conceived by **Danilo Ragona** and **Luca Paiardi**, explore Italy and the world through wheelchair-accessible travel, discovering lesser-known villages, towns and regions. Through digital content and reports, it promotes an authentic, unfiltered view of travel, addressing issues of accessibility, inclusive tourism and freedom of movement. Their experiences are shared online, helping to foster a culture of travel that is open to everyone.

Further information about the programme is available via [this link](#)