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*Michael Cramer MEP*

# The 'Iron Curtain Trail'

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**Sustainable tourism in the former Death Strip**



**V European Greenways Conference  
Presentation by Michael Cramer**

**10 June 2010**

*The Iron Curtain Trail – a model for sustainable tourism in Europe*



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# A **ride** through European History



- from the Barents Sea to the Black Sea
- along the western border of the former *Warsaw Pact* states
- more than 7000 kilometers
- through 20 countries, 14 of which are now EU Member States

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## The route

- as close as possible to the former border
- on comfortable paths
- avoiding highly frequented roads
- frequently crossing the former border
- integrating numerous historic monuments

The course is still a “work in progress”.





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...a European project – an EU project



“The Iron Curtain Trail should be supported as an example of Soft Mobility and as a symbol of the reunification of Europe.”

European Parliament resolution from 8th of September 2005 on new prospects and new challenges for sustainable European tourism



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← Berliner Mauerweg

The model :  
« The Berlin Wall Trail »

160 km around former  
West-Berlin



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← Berliner Mauerweg

## The Brandenburg Gate 1961 / 1989



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← Berliner Mauerweg

## Memorials for the victims of the Wall



Chris Gueffroy



Peter Fechter

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← Berliner Mauerweg

## « The Berlin Wall tours » - discovering the former border strip



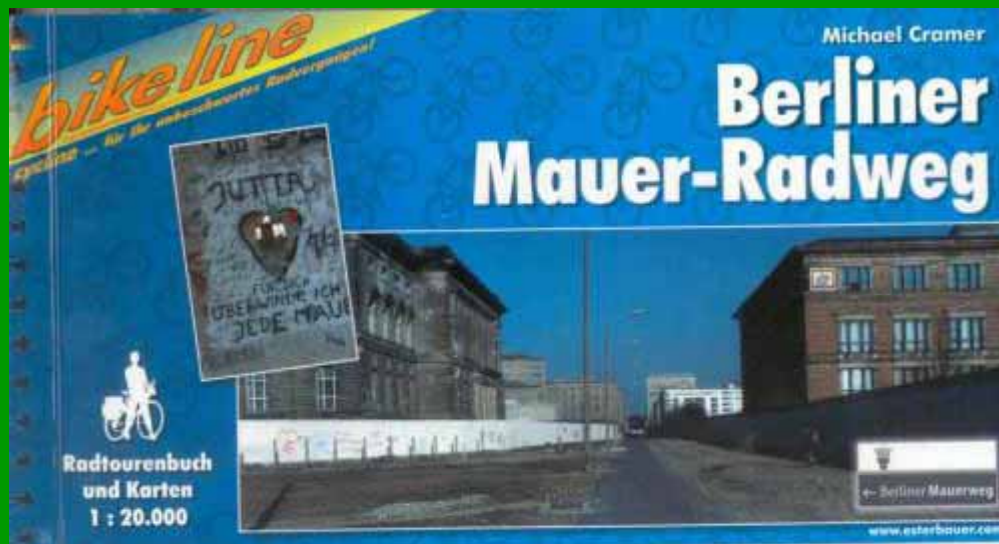
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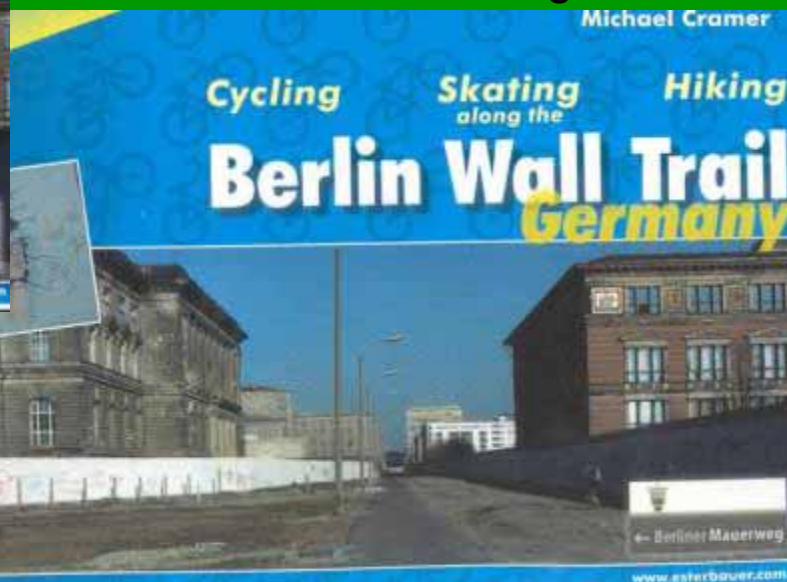
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## The Berlin Wall Trail



In German ...



...and English

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# The Northern part

Composed of...

- the Russian-Norwegian border

- the Russian-Finnish border

...and the Baltic Coast of:

- Estonia

- Latvia

- Lithuania

- the Kaliningrad exclave

- Poland

- the former GDR



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# The Northern part



**Norway:** Kirkenes, the starting point



**Finland:** Helsinki

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## The Northern part



**Estonia:** Tallinn – the capital



**Latvia:** Museum of the Occupation of Latvia in Riga

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# The Baltics and the Kaliningrad exclave



**Lithuania: Sventoji, starting point  
of the cycle trail R 10**



**Kaliningrad / Poland: Just before  
the Manonovo checkpoint**

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# Along the Polish coast



**Poland:** Remains of a church near Rewal



**Poland/Germany:** Crossing the Swine river



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# Along the coast of the former GDR



**Rerik** between the Baltic Sea  
and a lagoon



**Wismar**: the old university town

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# Through Central Europe

The former Inner-German border...

...and the borders between

- Czech Republic / Germany
- Czech Republic / Austria
- Slovakia / Austria
- Hungary / Austria
- Hungary / Slovenia
- Hungary / Croatia



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# Along the former inner-German border



**Before 1989:** The Baltic Sea near Priwall at Travemünde



**After 1989:** The open border near Priwall at Travemünde



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# Along the former inner-German border



**Before 1989:** a border patrol boat near Bleckede



**After 1989:** a ferry-service near Bleckede

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# Along the former inner-German border



**Before 1989:** Mödlareuth then called „Little Berlin“ with the wall



**After 1989:** Mödlareuth today without the wall



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## Along the former inner-German border



**Before 1989:** Lindewerra with watch tower and broken bridge



**After 1989:** Linderwerra with the bridge instead of a watch tower

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# Along the former inner-German border



**Before 1989:** Görsdorf with the death strip



**After 1989:** Nature is back again in Görsdorf

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# Through South-East Europe



The borders between:

- Romania / Serbia
- Bulgaria / Serbia
- Bulgaria / Macedonia
- Bulgaria / Greece
- Bulgaria / Turkey

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# Through South-East Europe



**Romania:** Milestone at the Danube river



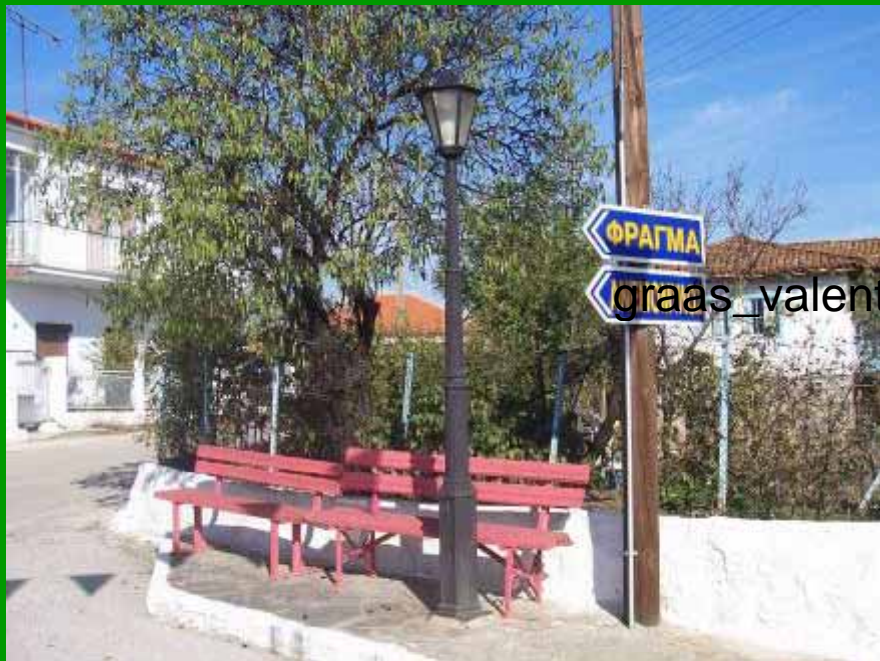
**Serbia:** The Danube river near Kladovo

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# Through South-East Europe



**Greece:** the village square of Petrotá



**Bulgaria:** endpoint on the Black Sea near Carevo



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## New EU competences in tourism under the Lisbon Treaty

### Article 195 of the Lisbon Treaty

#### TOURISM

(1) The Union shall complement the action of the Member States in the **tourism sector** [...]

To that end, Union action shall be aimed at:

- a) encouraging the creation of a favourable environment for the development of undertakings in this sector;
- b) promoting cooperation between the Member States, particularly by the exchange of good practice.

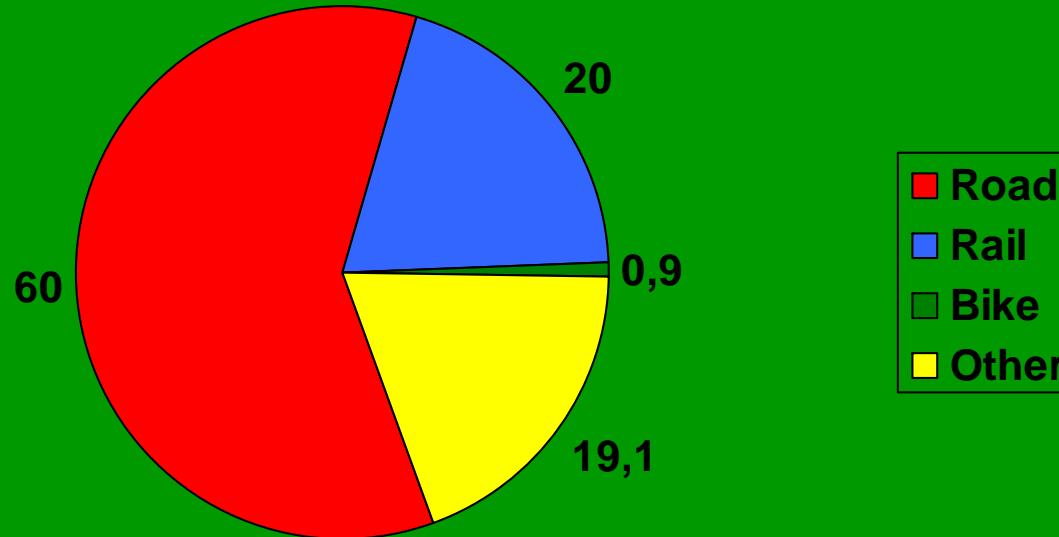


## Available EU funding in the 2010 budget

- **Preparatory action – Sustainable tourism**  
Total budget: 600 000 EUR
- **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**  
Total budget: more than 1 billion EUR
- **Cross-border cooperation (INTERREG)**  
Total budget: 50 mio. EUR



## Attribution of EU co-funding by mode of transport





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## The *EuroVelo* routes



1. Atlantic Coast Route
2. Capitals Route
3. Pilgrims Route
4. Central Europe Route
5. Via Romea Francigena Route
6. Rivers Route
7. Sun Route
8. Mediterranean Route
9. Amber Route
10. Hansa Circuit
11. East Europe Route
12. North Sea Cycle Route
13. Iron Curtain Trail

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# EuroVelo Route No. 13



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## National parks along the Iron Curtain Trail



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# The Iron Curtain Trail and the European Green Belt



- an ecological network under the umbrella of the **International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)**
- symbolizes the global effort for joint, cross border activities in nature conservation and sustainable development
- connects National Parks, Nature Parks, Biosphere Reserves and transboundary protected areas along or across borders
- patron: **Michael Gorbatschow**, President of Green Cross International
- the **Iron Curtain Trail** creates a sustainable way to access the Green Belt

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# The Iron Curtain Trail and the Greenways

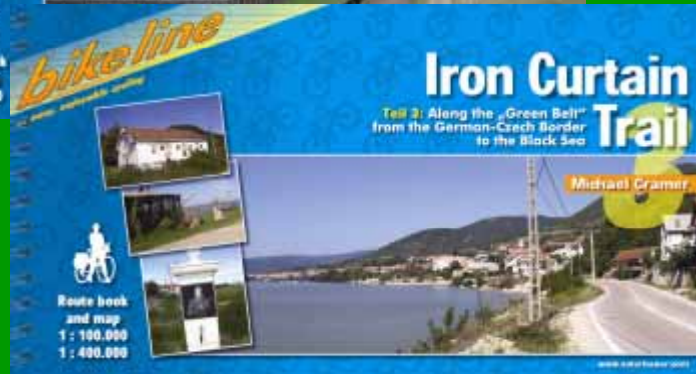
- some parts of the Iron Curtain Trail are Greenways:
  - located on canal towpaths
  - Green Belt
- more similarities:
  - the idea of sustainable tourism
  - environmentally integrated
  - user friendly
- learning from each other:
  - Article 195 of the Lisbon Treaty
  - exchange of good practice!

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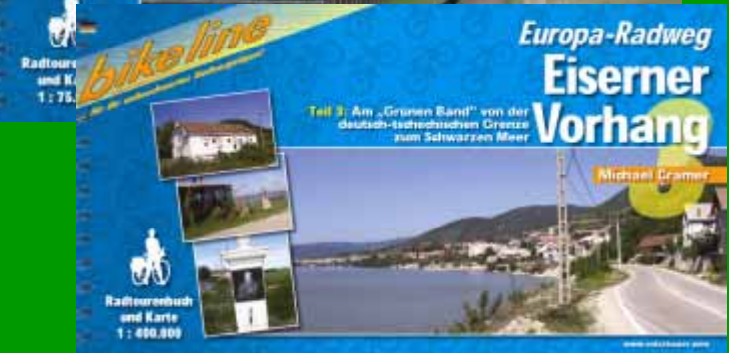


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In English



In German



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**Thank you for your attention!**



Find out more on [www.ironcurtaintrail.eu](http://www.ironcurtaintrail.eu)

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