

## **GREENWAYS PRODUCT - The portuguese context**

Viseu, Setembro 2013



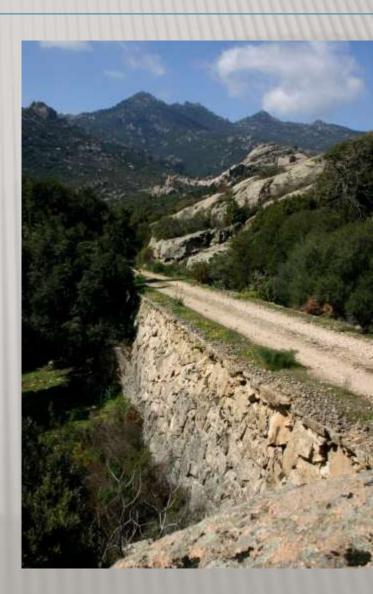


## **Greenways - Ecological Functions**

Althoug the definitions are still not very clear, the concept of linearity and connectivity is common to all, as well as the following functions:

#### **Ecological Functions**

- Protects natural areas, supporting plant and bird communities and promoting biodiversity
- The corridor vegetation worls as a filter, providing better air and water quality, and water and energy transport regulation
- Allows the contact between different habitats and genetic interchanges
- At a large scale, it can help communities to adapt to climate changes





## **Greenways - Social Functions**

Greenways area also important structures regarding social and generational integration;

#### **Social Functions**

- Promotes a strong sense of communitary multucultura space, connecting different territories, with different natural, historic and cultural heritages
- Allows the protection of patrimonial cultural, scenic and landscape resources
- Increases the connection of people to the surroundig landscape, also creating oportunities for recreation and urban mobility in cities and its peripheries
- Increases the social and physical well being preventing cardiac deseases







## **Greenways - Economical Functions**

From the economical point of view, there are studies and indicators in Europe that demonstrate the importance of greenways to the regional economies, mostly in depressed areas.

#### **Economical Functions**

- Diversifies the touristic offer of the territory, creating options to the so called Sun and Beach tourism turning the offer to the Cultural and landscape touring and to nature tourism.
- It allows the creation and development of micro-companies within the cycle tourism industry in depressed regions of the country.
- It allows to reduce the forest fires costs once the help to control fires in remote areas of the country.
- It helps saving money to the national health systems since they prevent cardiac arrests and other deseases.







### **Greeways - The Portuguese National Network**

Today there is a set of greenways that are starting to settle in the territory due to the effort of the REFER, municipalities, CIM's and other regional governments, that have invested in the construction, maintenance and promotion of these infrastructures.

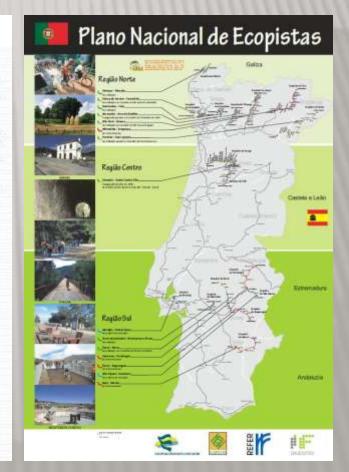
### EcoTrails

- REFER created a National EcoTrail Plan in 2001, with a view to redeveloping and
  reusing the railway lines and corridors that were not in use in some parts of Northern and Central
  Portugal and in the Alentejo region.
- The plan was implemented on the basis of contractual agreements with the municipalities through
  which these deactivated lines and trails pass. REFER conducted preliminary studies for
  landscaping projects, which subsequently served as the basis for the projects that developed each
  of the ecotrails.
- This entire experiment included the creation and registration of a National and European Brand (ECOPISTAS). Moreover, REFER also became a member of the

European Greenways Association (EGWA)

### Ecotrails in use -December 2009

- Rio Minho EcoTrail
- Famalicão Branch Line EcoTrail
- Guimarães -Fafe EcoTrail
- Corgo EcoTrail
- Sabor EcoTrail
- Vouga EcoTrail
- Dão EcoTrail
- Mora EcoTrail
- Montado Montemor-o-Novo EcoTrail
  - Since last November 2009, INVESFER had the management responsibility for the ECOTRAILS NATIONAL PLAN

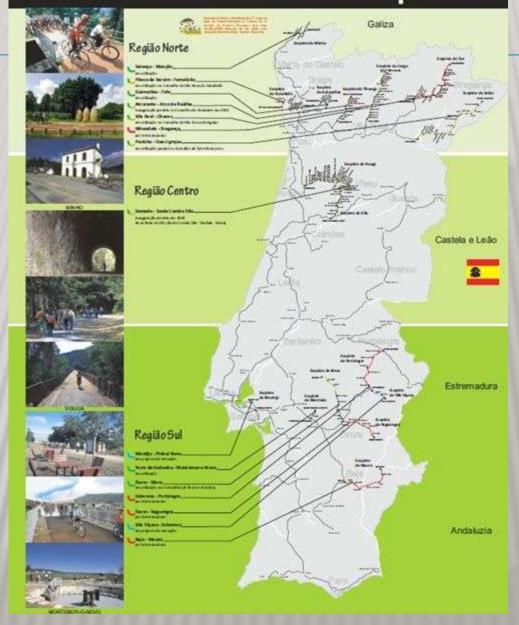


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# Plano Nacional de Ecopistas







## **Greeways - The Portuguese National Network**

>The number of residents in 49 Municipalities (large majority Rural) reach more than a		
Milion and half people;		
	Total kms elegibles for the Plan	– 748 kms
	Number of kms with contracts	- 449 kms (60%)
	Number of kms with preliminary studies for landscaping projects :	– 580 kms (78%)
	kms in use as Ecotrail ( 9 Municipalities in 49 – 18 %)	- 129 kms (17%)

Until the end of the year 2013 .... 212 km



## **Greenways – Touristic Internet Portals**

With the recent expansion of cycle-tourism in Portugal and the increasing demand of the use of greenways led to the construction of private websites provinding information regarding greenways, and selling services

What started as home made web-site just with basic information about the greenways is now becoming a business selling touristic guides, renting bikes and supporting other recreational activities.



ECOVIAS DE PORTUGAL



## **Greenways - Touristic Internet Portals**

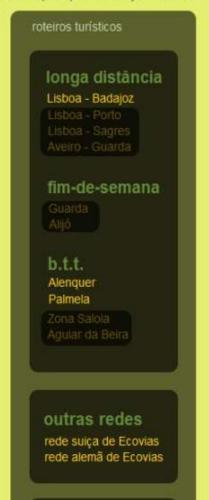
" ... se andar depressa demais val perder tudo aquilo que o fez viajar ", Bantam

fim-de-semana - Alenquer

#### Alenquer - zona saloia

sugerimos umas pedaladas por um concelho de tradições vincadamente ligadas à produção agrícola e que ainda hoje alimenta o corpo e a alma das gentes da capital.







## **Greenways - Touristic Internet Portals**



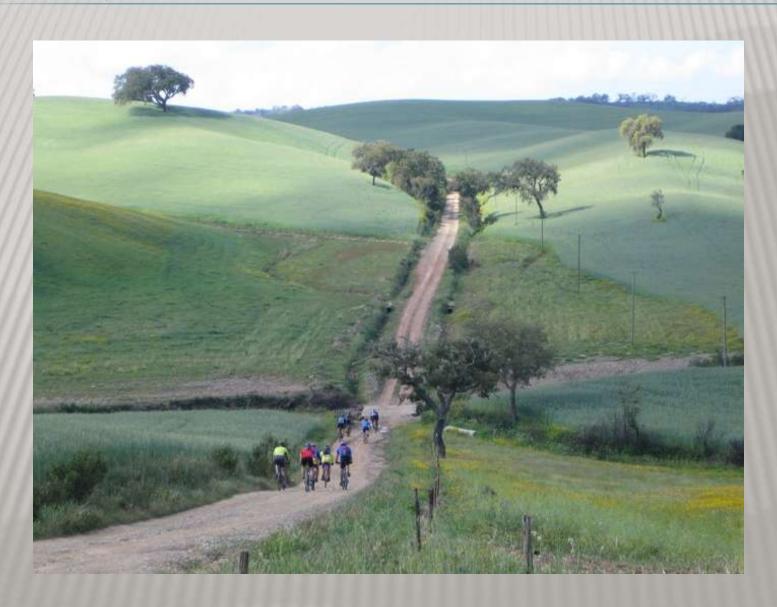


### **Greenways - Touristic Internet Portals**





# **Greenways – Nature tourism services**





## Greenways - Accomodation that uses de Ecopistas



Pousada de Arraiolos, Ecopista de Évora

### **Greenways - Accomodation**

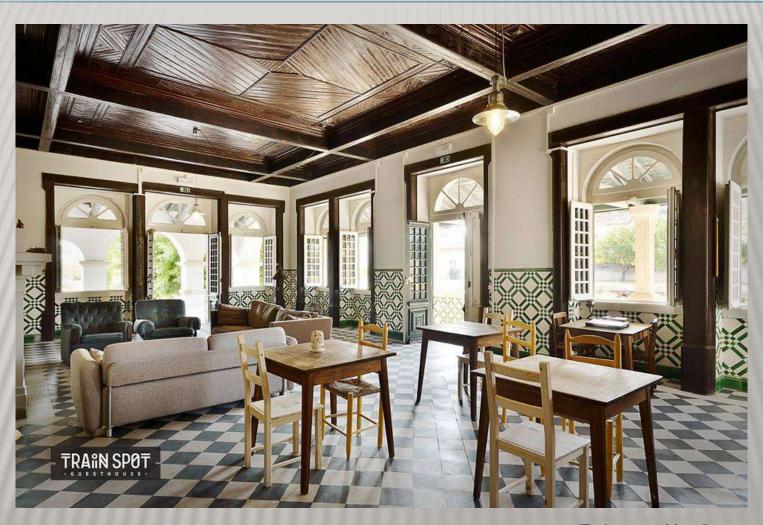




Estalagem Rainha D. Leonor, Cabeço de Vide

### **Greenways - Accomodation**





Trainspot - Marvão



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