



The 6th European Greenways Awards have been given on September 12th 2013, in Viseu, (Portugal).

Eight greenways from Austria, Belgium Ireland, Portugal, Spain and United Kingdom were awarded as reference of best practices in Europe. The Award ceremony was held in Viseu, Dão-Lafões (Portugal).



The European Greenways Award was created in 2003 and has been held every two years since. EGWA has been delighted to receive 21 candidacies from 9 different countries, and wishes to thank all the candidates for the quality of their work and the effort done to provide very helpful information.

Picture: CIM Dão Lafões. Awarded after the ceremony at Viseu (Portugal)

In this 2013 edition the international jury has awarded projects in three categories: "Excellence", "Exemplary Initiatives" and one special prize "Tourism Product in Greenways" (*)

The jury met in Brussels last June, and as specified in the award regulations, they set out to select 3 awards for the "Excellence" and "Exemplary Initiatives" categories and the special prize for the "Tourism Product in Greenways" (*). However, due to the high quality of the presented candidates and after careful consideration, the members of the Jury chose to add a second third prize in the category "Excellence". We are pleased to announce that the award winners are:

«Excellence» Category:

1st Prize: Tuernitzer Radweg / Marktgemeinde Tuernitz (Municipal Authority Tuernitz) (Austria)

Excellent greenway, very strongly supported by neighbors, which promotes the daily mobility of citizens. It connects many public services and includes a stunning tunnel used as a concerts hall.
www.tuernitz-noe.at

2nd Prize: Vía Verde de la Sierra / Fundación de la Vía Verde de la Sierra (Spain)

For its determination on keeping on improving the excellence levels already reached, generating new and attractive equipments and accommodations to attract tourists and creating new jobs in a very rural area, despite the current crisis. <http://www.fundacionviaverdedelasierra.com/>

3rd Prize: Vasco-Navarro Greenway / Provincial Council of Alava (Spain)

For the implication of a great number of local agents in the development of this excellent greenway over a long period of time. The jury especially appreciate the great effort for getting value out of the historical heritage of this ancient railway and its touristic application.
www.alava.net/web/reditinerariosverdes

3rd Prize: Ecopista do Dão / CIM Região Dão Lafões (Portugal)

For the global quality of the greenway infrastructures and the effort done recovering abandoned valuable heritage and for the services created in the surroundings; it is appreciated the joint implementation under a management integral plan. <https://www.facebook.com/ecopistadodao>

«Exemplary Initiatives» Category:

1st Prize: Great Western Greenway / Failte Ireland National Tourism Development Authority (Ireland)

For the transformation of an old railway in excellent greenways, successfully achieved thanks to a partnership approach that is being an inspiring model for other current developments on Ireland. It allows both local residents and tourists to discover the most beautiful landscapes of the west of the country. www.greenway.ie

2nd Prize: "Alverdes", hostels on the Northwest Greenway of the region of Murcia / Consorcio de las Vías Verdes de la Región de Murcia (Spain)

For its reusing initiative, transforming ancient railway stations into lodgings for the users of the Northwest Greenway. They are managed jointly, reinforcing thus the railway patrimony and offering 7 new equipments to the greenway. <http://www.viaverdedelnoroeste.com/>

3rd Prize: Connect2 TwoTunels Greenway / Sustrans Ltd. (United Kingdom)

For the innovate and exemplary restoration of the Combe Down Tunnel, which is an attraction itself, with light and sound art installation. They also followed an exemplary procedure for creating an excellent greenway, which counted with a huge level of public support and community involvement.

<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/bath-two-tunnels> and <http://www.twotunnels.org.uk/>

Special prize «Tourism Product in Greenways » (*)

Vennbahn / Tourismusagentur Ostbelgien (Belgium)

For the creation and commercialization of a tourism product related to the excellent, cross-border Vennbahn greenway, which connects 3 different countries. It offers tourism services packages, including accommodation, e-bikes, baggage transport, and a la carte packages. <http://www.vennbahn.eu/>

This 6th European Greenways Award has been organized by the [Greenways Association EGWA](#) in cooperation with the [Comunidade Intermunicipal da Região Dão Lafões](#) with the support of the [DG Enterprise and Industry of the European Commission](#) and the collaboration of the [European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe](#).

For further information please contact: –**European Greenways Association EGWA**

(*) This special award is part of the activities included in the **Greenways Product** project:



Project co-financed by the Competitiveness and Innovation
Framework Programme of the European Union