

GreenWays4tour project

The Greenways4tour project fits in with the call to “promote transnational thematic tourism” products in the **European Union** to develop sustainable tourism. For the first time, greenways have been included in the grant programme of the European Commission’s General Directorate of Tourism (2011), indicating that they are an area regarded to have great potential and value for the development of **sustainable tourism** within Europe.

The project, with a budget of 160,000 over 12 months, is aimed at supporting the creation of a Pan-European tourist product: “**European Greenways for Sustainable Tourism**”.

The process will involve tourist authorities, industry, NGOs and other stakeholders, with a view to contributing to a more sustainable tourism offer, a reduction in CO2 emissions caused by the tourism industry, the promotion of the heritage and improved accessibility for everyone.

It will promote and increase international awareness of European greenways as excellent facilities for **cyclists, walkers and people with disabilities** and improving sustainable tourism choices in Europe.



Objectives

- To promote and increase the **international visibility** of European greenways as highly suitable infrastructures for cyclists, walkers, people with disabilities and families.
- **To launch the European Greenways Observatory**, to provide an information channel on a European scale which gives information on greenways in Europe, their main features, location and the general services they offer.
- To facilitate the exchange of information, drawing on existing expertise and sharing **best practice** experiences in EU Member States, between relevant players and stakeholder organizations.
- To encourage **improvement in the offer of services on greenways**, through awareness-building and an improvement in the know-how of local service and equipment providers on greenways.
- To **encourage the use of greenways**, which generally run through rural areas, by specific groups of tourists, particularly cycle tourists and people with disabilities.
- To serve as **inspiration** for countries, regions and areas which do not yet have greenways and to encourage them to build greenways and include them in their tourism offer.

Further Information: www.greenways4tour.org

European Greenways Association

European Greenways Association (EGWA), is a not profit association; it was created in 1998 (Namour/Belgium), with the aim of spreading and promoting greenways in Europe. From 2009 Secretariat and executive office held in Madrid at the Spanish Railways headquarters. Currently 44 member organizations from 11 countries support EGWA.

Since its foundation in 1998 the European Greenways Association...

- Contributes towards the **preservation of infrastructures** such as disused railway corridors, tow paths and historic routes (Roman roads, pilgrim's path, drove ways,...) in the public domain to develop, along them, **non-motorised itineraries**.
- Encourages the use of non-motorised transport, draws up inventories of potential routes and writes technical reports.
- Promotes and coordinates the **exchange of expertise and information** among different associations and **national and local bodies** which are currently developing these initiatives in **Europe**.
- **Informs and advises** local and national bodies on how to develop non-motorised itineraries.
- Collaborates with **European bodies** to support their policies in term of **sustainable development, tourism, environment, rural development, regional balance and employment**.



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European Greenways for Tourism

"Greenways are communication routes reserved exclusively for non-motorized journeys, developed in an integrated manner which enhances both the environment and quality of life of the surrounding area" (Lille declaration, 2000).

They have as **common characteristics**:

- **Ease of passage:** their slopes, either low or zero gradients, allow their use by all types of users, including mobility impaired people.
- **Safety**, due to their separation from roads, and to appropriate safeguards at the intersections.
- **Continuity** reaching suitable solutions for difficult sections and finding alternative routes.
- **Respect for the environment** along itineraries and encouraging its respect by the users.

Greenways provide **facilities** based on the infrastructures and buildings of the old pathways and tracks, such as disused railway stations and lock keepers' houses. These facilities can take several shapes: general accommodation, museums, bicycle rentals, hostels... They serve local users as well as tourists.

Greenways...

- **Improve** communications and non-motorised itineraries in Europe: hundreds of kilometers running through European countries are available for pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians and mobility impaired people.
- **Promote** healthier and more balanced ways of life and transport reducing the congestion and the pollution of cities.
- **Promote** rural development, active tourism and local employment.
- **Encourage** a more human and closer relationship among citizens.
- **Bring** Europeans closer to both their natural and cultural environment.



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www.greenwayseurope.org

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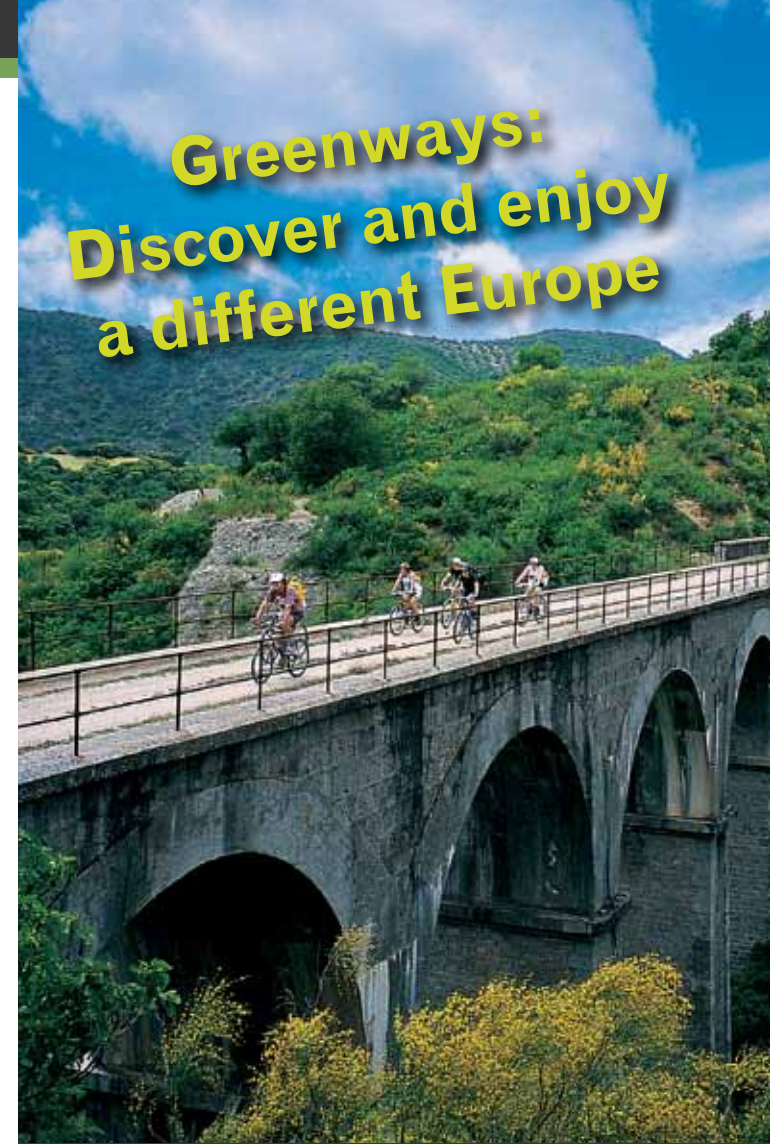
Join us: EGWA encourages all promoters of Greenways to take part of this active Association to spread in Europe the concept of greenways so that they can be recognized as indispensable infrastructures to move towards a more sustainable Europe with a better quality of life for its citizens.

European Greenways Association

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**Greenways:
Discover and enjoy
a different Europe**



GreenWays4tour



The project is co-financed
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