



GREENWAYS INFO

A new greenways project for EGWA

In May 2005, the Walloon Minister for Home Affairs and the Civil Service, Philippe Courard, assigned EGWA a general role of providing support and follow-up for pilot projects aimed at developing a local network of greenways, tracks and footpaths in the Walloon Region. The Association will receive a grant of € 34,000 for implementing the project up until May 2006.

The «Local greenways, tracks and footpaths» project

Thirteen pilot municipalities meet the criteria established by the Walloon Region (potential for greenways, nearby presence of a RAVeL path and cartographic documentation). They will share a grant totalling € 1.65 million that will be used to develop secure connections between local greenways and existing networks (RAVeL, cycle paths, etc.). The aim is to offer citizens an alternative to motorised mobility. The programme's priorities also include a decrease in road accidents and pollution, and accessibility for all to residential and activity areas.

The tasks assigned to EGWA

Communication is one of the main components of the project taken on by EGWA. The Association's communication officer will produce communication material and organise international events (colloquia, seminars, Walloon greenways day, etc.) with the aid of a service provider who will carry out technical and

administrative tasks. Information on the project will be disseminated to the Association's numerous European contacts.

EGWA also intends to offer the pilot municipalities the chance to develop relations with municipalities in other countries having the same concerns in matters of sustainable local mobility (twinings within the European Union). It will put together a handbook for municipalities wishing to be involved in such activities and will help them prepare project files. Marie Cherchari, who has a degree in Political Science and is specialised in International Public Law, has been hired by the Association for one month to carry out research for the project.

Thanks to its detailed knowledge of the AMNO Greenways for Europe project, the Association will also study the possibility of including different itineraries developed as part of the pilot projects in the comprehensive plan around the major greenways.

To ensure greater coherence between projects, a Walloon label for greenway

facilities and their ease of access will be created and will give rise to the signature of an inter-regional charter.

Finally, at the conclusion of the phase of the creation of itineraries by the municipalities, EGWA will provide a qualitative and quantitative evaluation of the pilot projects, in order to judge the impact of the facilities and their use. This is expected to help encourage other municipalities to get involved in non-motorised mobility projects.



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The main objectives of the European Greenways Association (EGWA), founded in 1998, are to make an inventory of, promote and encourage infrastructures referred to as greenways.

European Mobility Week (EMW)

European Mobility Week will be held from 16 to 22 September 2005. The theme for this year's event is «Clever Commuting!» The idea is to encourage the public to adopt new mobility habits that do not involve the use of a car. The accent will be on alternative and sustainable means of travel, such as bicycles, walking and public transport.

The Week will be inaugurated in London on 15 and 16 September with a number of conferences, guided visits and workshops on the theme «In motion! Visions for urban mobility & clean air».

Our new member, Transport for London, is organising the event. Two EGWA representatives will attend the conference events in London and will host a stand presenting our activities. www.mobilityweek-europe.org



European Greenways Day

Due to difficulties matching up dates among all our members for the European Greenways Day, the Management Committee has decided not to impose a fixed date for this event. Accordingly, our members are free to combine their activities with local events planned for European Mobility Week (16-22 September 2005).

The Association will nevertheless distribute a set of proposals for actions and relay on its Internet site the activity programmes forwarded to us by members. Therefore, we kindly ask you to keep us informed of your actions by email to info@aevv-egwa.org ● ● ●

EGWA represented at TrailLink (USA)

Our President, Mr Jean-Marie Tétart, represented the European Greenways Association at the TrailLink conference in Minneapolis on 29 July last. TrailLink, the International Trails and Greenways Conference, is an initiative of our American honorary member, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.



Mr Tétart made a presentation at a special evening ceremony for the presentation of the Rail-Trail Design Awards to Hill City Museum, in the presence of Member of the US Congress Martin Sabo.

He gave a general overview of the development of greenways in Europe, their history and future prospects, and went on to describe more specifically the work of EGWA, the partnerships between European countries for the development of greenways and the lessons Europeans have learned from the development of greenways in the United States.

Our President's participation in the conference confirms that EGWA is now recognised beyond Europe's borders. The event was an important opportunity for our Association, offering experience sharing and a wealth of meetings. Mr Daniel Mourek, EPCE member and Treasurer of EGWA, also attended TrailLink, where he gave a presentation on «Trails and Ecotourism».

We will provide details on the experience of our representatives in an upcoming issue. ● ● ●

New EGWA brochure

The brochure introducing EGWA has just rolled off the presses in English and French.

Three thousand copies have been printed in each of the two languages. The brochure will be a reference document in the drive to bring in new members and to illustrate our activities for our partners in greenways and sustainable development activities.

In addition to defining the concept of greenways and their many advantages, the brochure describes our activities and future prospects. The brochure takes the form of a folder to which documents can be added, for example, the list of our members, newsletters and any other document useful for the promotion of greenways. We would like to thank all our members for their photographic contributions.

The document is available on request from our Association.

RAVeL's «Beau Vélo» event

A summertime radio and cycling event par excellence, RAVeL's «Beau Vélo» is a resounding success every year.

Adrien Joveneau, who hosts the programme, leads his fellow citizens on a different excursion every Saturday, all summer long, on the RAVeL network and other Walloon greenways. The outing is an ideal opportunity to discover the wonders of the region. On the agenda: brunch, cycling, concerts, discovery of local gastronomy and more.

On 27 August, the EGWA Secretariat General will participate in the Aubel itinerary and will host a stand. Jorge González will also be interviewed before the bike ride begins.

Broadcast on www.vivacite.be

As announced in the previous issue of the newsletter, in February EGWA welcomed a new British member, Transport for London. Welcome to the City.



The Mayor of London Ken Livingstone has set a target in his Transport Strategy: to make the British capital one of the world's most walkable cities by 2015. A network of cycle paths and walking routes has been developed and is managed by local government partnerships funded directly by the Mayor's regional body Transport for London.

The Corporation of London, one of the most influential local authorities managing many of the parks and open spaces around London as well as the heart of the financial district (the City), will lead the development of the Strategic Walk Network for the City.

The project is initially funding the completion, enhancement and promotion of six of the 380 promoted paths. The Access Company, a consulting firm specialised in access for people to the natural environment, has been hired by The Corporation of London to manage the project.

Following detailed user surveys and the development of a robust cost-benefit analysis, new standards have been set for the network. More than £14 million will be needed to make the trails exemplars of best practice.

Impressed by the clearly presented economic case, The Corporation has so far received more than £2 million for the network, which is already being judged as one of the most successful pro-walking projects in Britain today.

Transport for London and The Corporation are interested in developing partnerships with other cities in Europe, particularly other capitals, to share best practice and develop more liveable neighbourhoods through walking and cycling networks in cities. ● ● ●

150 cycle tracks and greenways on the AF3V website (F)

To help you prepare your outings on cycle tracks and greenways in France, AF3V presents on its site (www.af3v.org) a data base of more than 150 officially open itineraries.

Each itinerary is described (length, surface material, type of users) and checked by hikers/cyclists and AF3V local associations.

The site also provides documentation and contains direct links to other sources of information. Searches may be made by type of track/greenway, user, department or region. Photos and users' reactions were added to the site in June 2005. ● ● ●

«Chemins du Rail» and cross-border greenways (B)

Chemins du Rail is involved in several studies on the creation of greenways along abandoned railway lines in Belgium. As members of EGWA, we are of course very attentive to connections with neighbouring countries.

A greenway was created along the former railway line between Péruwelz (Belgium) and Bruay-sur-Escout (France) several years ago. The only gap in the itinerary is a section two kilometres long on the French side. Since 2002, we have been sending letters to the public authorities, accompanied with maps and photos, suggesting that this short gap be bridged. Likewise, the installation of 5 km of track along a canal would link up the Walloon RAVeL network to the historic town of Condé in France.

Our most recent contacts give us hope that the matter might be settled before the end of the year.

In the eastern German-speaking region of Walloon, we are finalising a study on a greenway that will take users all the way to the Luxembourg border. Meanwhile, the Walloon Ministry for Equipment and Transport has just begun work on a connection that will lead to the German border. There are also plans to study a further 50 km along abandoned railway lines between Belgium and Luxembourg.

So, step by step, a network of greenways is being set into place that will connect us with our neighbours. Chemins du Rail is proud to participate actively in making such a network a reality.

G. Perrin ● ● ●

Agenda

Driven to extinction? How transport policy can save the world

Sustrans, our English member specialised in sustainable transport, is sponsoring a conference on Transport, Health and Climate Change on 12 September, in Cambridge, Great Britain. Leading experts on transport, health and the environment will meet for a day of talks on how to take up the biggest challenges facing local authorities and planning officials in the area of transport.

The following subjects will be discussed:

- What impact does sustainable transport policy have on economic growth?
- How can we fully integrate health, environment and transport policy?
- How can local transport plans deliver the government targets?

The conference is for all policymakers involved in transport, environment or health issues, as well as business leaders and interest groups.

For more information see:

[www.thewaterfront.co.uk/
conferences/conf_calendar.php](http://www.thewaterfront.co.uk/conferences/conf_calendar.php)



9th Conference of «Les Départements Cyclables» association (F)

The association known as «Les Départements Cyclables» will be holding its 9th Conference from 15 to 18 September next. Following on from Haute-Garonne in 2004, the Department of Seine-Maritime, together with East-Sussex (United Kingdom), will host this year's event. Elected officials and technicians from the local and regional level will learn more about the stakes, good practices and the players involved in rational and sustainable pupil mobility, through a technical seminar and cycling visits in Seine-Maritime and East-Sussex.

In France, the cycling visit will cover Avenue Verte (which links Dieppe to Forges-les-Eaux) while the English visit will be to Cuckoo-trail, a 25-km track along an abandoned railway line that has been decorated with works of art by local artists.

With the aim of expanding the impact of this conference and asserting its commitment to the development of alternative means of transport, the Department of Seine-Maritime will sponsor in parallel with the conference, «Freewheels Greenways Festival». Open to the general public, the event will be held on two separate days, 14 and 18 September.

Information and registration:

www.departements-cyclables.org



16th Congress of the «Club des villes cyclables», 19-21 October 2005 (F)

Elected officials and spatial planning authorities from the 750 local and regional divisions belonging to the «Club des villes cyclables» (Cycling Towns Club) will be meeting in the autumn in Lille. They will be met there by their Belgian and English neighbours and colleagues involved in cycling facilities development.

The question of health will be one of the main leitmotifs of the Congress. Its theme, «Bien à vélo, bien dans ma peau» (Cycling to feel good) will be the subject of a round table and public debate on combating today's sedentary lifestyle.

Another high point of the meeting will be the presentation of the Cycle Trophies which recognise actions to promote a well rounded cycling policy encompassing the utilitarian, recreational, tourism aspects, etc.

The Congress will also be the setting for an important exhibition of products and services offered by the companies participating in the development of cycling amenities, ranging from urban signposting to cycling equipment.

For further information see:

<http://www.villes-cyclables.org/>



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Greenways: « communication routes reserved exclusively for non-motorised journeys, developed in an integrated manner which enhances both the environment and quality of life of the surrounding area. These routes should meet satisfactory standards of width, gradient, and surface condition to ensure that they are both user-friendly and low-risk for users of all abilities ».
Declaration of Lille, 12th September 2000.