



ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE DES VOIES VERTES
EUROPEAN GREENWAYS ASSOCIATION
ASOCIACIÓN EUROPEA DE VÍAS VERDES

***Greenways:* Initiatives to promote active mobility**

Madrid 27/November/2023

THE PEP / EHP PARTNERSHIP
ON HEALTHY ACTIVE MOBILITY

Mercedes Muñoz Zamora
European Greenways Association,
Director direction@aevv-egwa.org

THE PEP

Transport, Health
and Environment
Pan-European Programme



UNECE



World Health
Organization

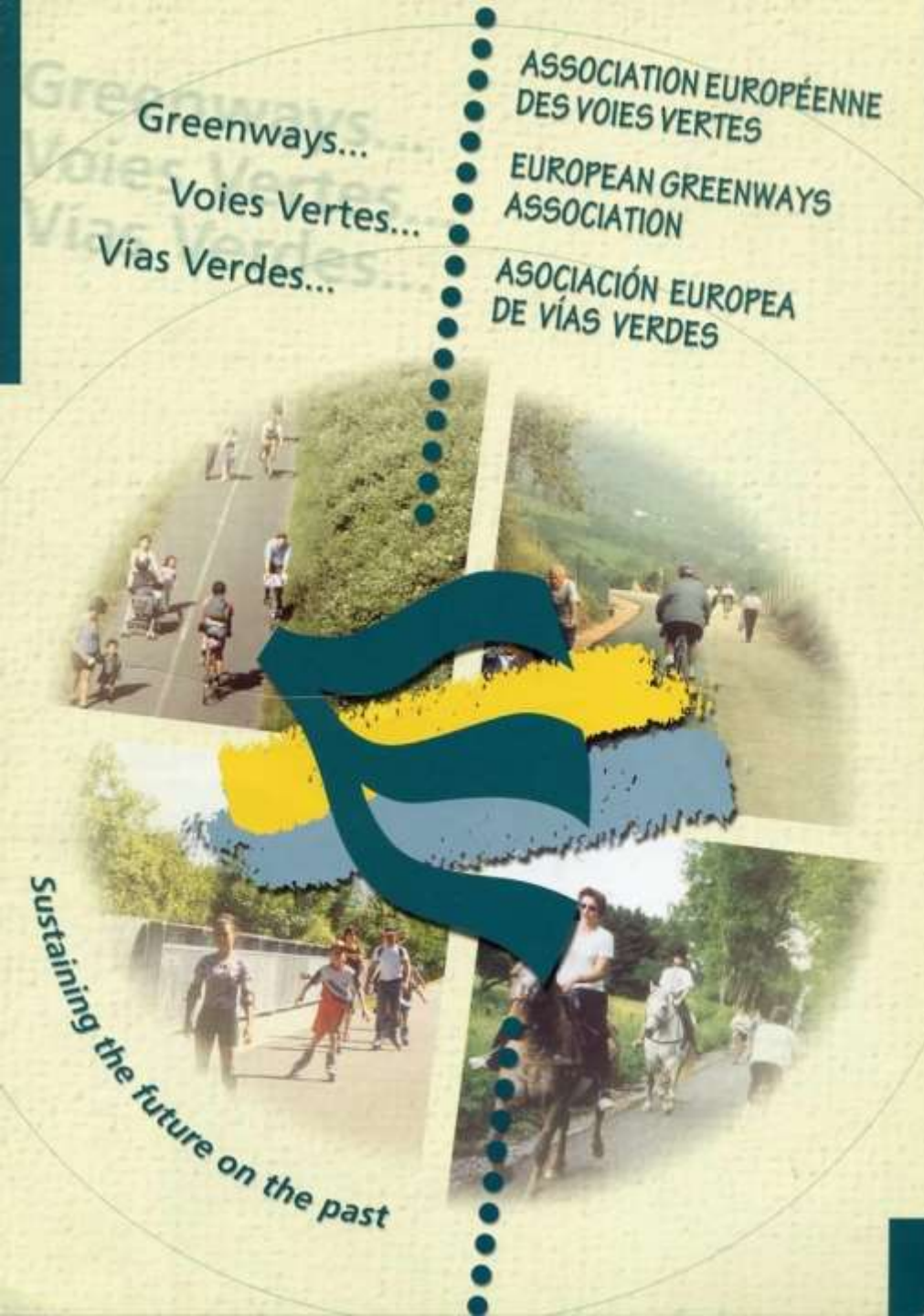
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR
Europe

Greenways

- Independent non-motorized routes, mainly using **disused railways** and **canal towpaths**.
- **Safe, accessible and very attractive**
- Easy access to areas of outstanding natural beauty (e.g. mountainous areas, by way of tunnels and viaducts).

[See Lille Declaration, 12 September 2000](#)





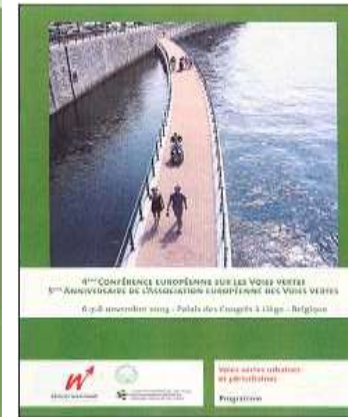
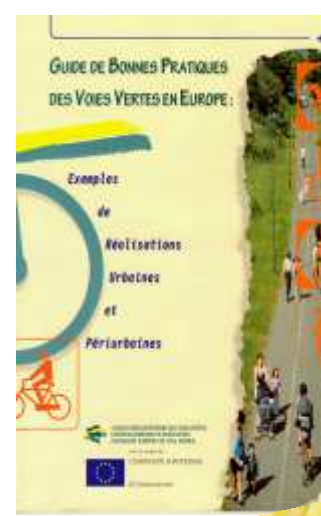
European Greenways Association

- ✓ Created in 1998 in Namur (Wallonia, Belgium) with the aim:
 - to make an inventory of existing greenways,
 - to promote the realization of new greenways,
 - to encourage the use of greenways in Europe.
- ✓ 51 members from 16 countries + 4 honorary members. 3 Colleges:
 - National Public Entities
 - Regional / Local Public Entities
 - Associations
- ✓ Secretariat and executive seat in Madrid (Spain) c/o the Fundación de los Ferrocarriles Españoles.

What EGWA does?

Greenways Promotion

- European Greenways Award
- Conferences
- European Greenways Observatory
- European Greenways Day, within the European Mobility Week
- Best Practices Guide,
- European projects (**REVER, Naviki, Greenways4Tour, Greenways Product, Greenways Outdoor, Greenways4ALL, Greenways Heritage, OURWAY, SIGWAY**)
- Information exchange, initiatives diffusion, networking, cooperation, advise, lobbying, (...)



Greenways are a European initiative



➤ Approx. 20,000 km on disused railways (15-20% of the total)



EGWA takes part in the co-implementation of the Transition Pathway for Tourism

Pledges for co-implementation highlight the importance of greenways, and active mobility such as cycling and walking, for tourism and everyday life, and the need of safe and accessible non-motorised infrastructures.

*They are **concrete actions** for the **co-implementation** of the European tourism transition, while giving visibility and supporting our request to include greenways as priority in the European Tourism Agenda 2030.*

Fostering green and digital transitions, thereby strengthening both economic and social resilience.



**Transition Pathway
for Tourism:**

Leading the transition

Summary of stakeholder commitments published
on 28 June 2022



Co-implementation of the Transition Pathway for Tourism

Together for EU tourism - Commitments of the EGWA

Topic 4: Comprehensive tourism strategies development or update

Topic 6 Sustainable mobility

Topic 8: Green transition of tourism companies and SMEs

Topic 10: Improve the availability of information on tourism offer online

Topic 16: Support for digitalisation of tourism SMEs and destinations

Topic 20: Awareness raising on changes in tourism demand and the opportunities of twin transition for tourism

Topic 25: Enhancing accessible tourism services

Topic 26: Tourism services for visitors and residents alike

Topic 27: Support visibility of funding opportunities for tourism actors



**Transition Pathway
for Tourism:**

Leading the transition

Summary of stakeholder commitments published
on 28 June 2022

Example box 6: European Greenways Association

EGWA commits to raise awareness on integration of sustainability criteria in SMEs and other
businesses, and to develop practical material: 10 practical
tools, by 2023.
N
U
to reduce the
note proximity consumption, and
others, and encouraging them measuring their progress.

[>> Further info](#)

**Preparing collection of Best Practices
and sustainable trip proposals.**



C) Special award, Green transition in greenways:

A single award will be granted to **reward actions that contribute to green transition in the greenways ecosystem**, and contribute to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Initiatives will be related to the greenway itself, or to greenway-based tourism services or products that integrate sustainability criteria, and aimed at either one or more of these trails.

The Special award will be addressed only to greenways using disused railways, as a special form of circular economy.

This special award is part of the activities promoted by EGWA in the co-implementation of the Transition Pathway for Tourism, to recognise initiatives addressing green transition challenges in the greenways ecosystem, and to showcase how the green transition happens on the ground.



International Conference on Greenways and Sustainable Tourism

Monday 20 Nov. 2023

(11:00 - 18:00)

Rome (Italy)

[>>> Info here](#)

www.europeangreenwaysaward.org



With the patronage of con il patrocinio di:





Transition Pathway for Tourism (TTP)

Best practices regarding the European Greenways Association Pledges

Topic # 6
Sustainable mobility

Follow up - June 2023

New examples will follow



www.aevv-egw.org

info@aevv-egw.org



Topic 6 Sustainable mobility

- i) reuse and valorisation of heritage transport infrastructure, namely **disused railways**, to promote innovative and sustainable forms of tourism, for instance slow tourism (e.g. cycle tourism);



Aragón & Valencia Region, Spain



Ojos Negros / *Black Eyes* Greenway
Former mining train.
167.5 Km, it is the longest in Spain.



Topic 6 Sustainable mobility

- ii) deployment of new **non-motorised infrastructures**, and the upgrade of the existing ones for cycling and walking



A dense network of bike paths of over 1,200 kilometers connecting greenways, waterways and other cycle routes, to favour the transition to active daily mobility in a safe way, in one of the largest conurbation in Europe.



Topic 6 Sustainable mobility

- iii) **connectivity** improvement between the non-motorised routes (as greenways and cycle routes) and the main **attractions nearby** (natural as e.g. N2000, cultural and natural UNESCO sites and other heritage assets), small villages and surrounding areas;



Cyklostezka Sázava. Follows the river Sázava and connects towns of Přebyslav and Sázava; along connecting cycle route 19 also UNESCO site Pilgrimage Church of St John of Nepomuk in Žďár n.S. The greenway uses 120 years old railway Havlíčkův Brod – Žďár n. S.



Bohemian-Moravian Highlands. Czechia

Topic 6 Sustainable mobility

- iv) **connectivity**
Improvement with **public transports** to facilitate **intermodality**, removing obstacles to favour cycle routes, their services and attractions, for tourists and local people;



From Liège, railway station, in Belgium to Aachen in Germany
RAVEL – L38 &39



Line 38- RAVEL Walloon region , Belgium



Topic 6 Sustainable mobility

- v) combined travel (bicycle + train /boat /buses);



RFI-4-Greenways. Communication actions to:
Spread the knowledge on the disused railways to improve the realisation of greenways;
Encourage people to reach and enjoy greenways cycling and/or walking by using the train.



'Together for EU Tourism - T4T' Expert Group

The Expert group has been created by the DG GROW to follow up, monitor and support actions in the Transition Pathway for Tourism & EU Tourism Agenda 2030.



3 sub-groups:

- **Green transition**
- **Digital transition**
- **Resilience / inclusion / skills**

The EGWA will take part in the task force “Decarbonising the transport sector (including green mobility); bike and public transport topics will be included in this task force.

SIGWAY (Sport In Greenways) project

Aim: to promote sport and healthy leisure activities outdoors by stimulating sports activities offer in greenways and potential greenways; while raising awareness on environmental issues and circular economy.

Enhancing sports field employability and local economies

➤ 1-May 2022 - 31 October 2024 (30 months)

7 partners:

1. FORMACION PARA EL DESARROLLO E INSERCIÓN, ES (Lead Partner)
2. **ASSOCIATION EUROPEENNE DES VOIES VERTES AISBL BE**
3. ZENTRUM FÜR INNOVATIVE BILDUNG AT
4. OTI SLOVAKIA SK
5. ASSOCIAZIONE SPORTIVA DILETTANTISTICA TREKKIFY IT
6. ATHENS NETWORK OF COLLABORATING EXPERTS ASTIKI ETAIRIA EL
7. ASSOCIACAO DESPORTIVA CULTURAL E SOCIAL DE CARVALHAIS PT



-Research on sports existing offer in Greenways.

Good practices and Innovative sport activities that are organised in greenways or that could be transferable.

Mapping of potential new greenways: all partners will identify potential greenways in their regions.

-Develop a Sports Activities Programme & Sport Training of Trainers (SToT) for Greenways, dealing with transversal topics such as environmental awareness and circular economy.

-Design a Strategy for Sport Activities Programs in Greenways.

Focus Groups to analyse and propose implementation possibilities to enhance local economy and revitalize abandoned areas through sport.

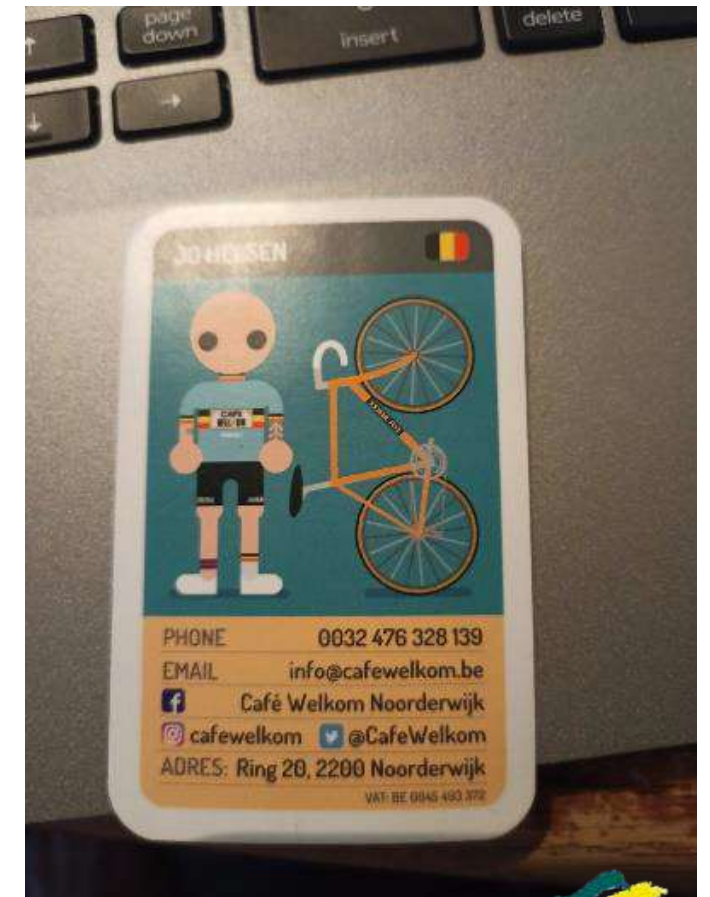
HANDBOOK: 7 cases of successful sport activities in greenways



<https://www.sigway.eu/3d-flip-book/handbook/>



Belgium: Café Welkom Veloclub on this greenway!



Belgium: Café Welkom Veloclub on this greenway!

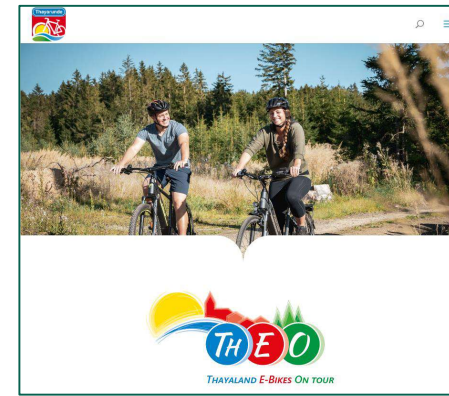


ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE DES VOIES VERTES
EUROPEAN GREENWAYS ASSOCIATION
ASOCIACIÓN EUROPEA DE VÍAS VERDES

- **A friendly cycling club promoted by the owner of a cafe in Flanders**
- Started in 2015, goal retro club. First spontaneous women's club and then mixed. Rikken & Yvonnekes: more girls than boys.
- The boys "De Rikken", the girls "De Yvonnekes". Named after two famous champion cyclists in Flanders, de Rikken (Rik Van Steenberghe and Rik Van Looy) and Yvonne Reynders (also a famous female champion cyclist in the past)!
- **Participants meet for cycling rides twice a week along sections of the #greenway (Kempen-Hageland route L 29) and non-motorised or low-traffic roads in the protected landscape area of #Merode.**
- **Riding in a group makes them feeling more safety and socially comfortable.**
- The greenway goes through Herentals– Westerlo – Hulshout – Herselt – Aarschot (municipalities), including a protected landscape area: landscape park De Merode



Austria:Thayaland e-bikes on tour (Theo):



INNOVATIVE EDUCATION CENTER

- **A new electric bike rental system that gives services in a unified way to 15 communities, of the future Thayaland region, and two communities of the small region ASTEG.**
- **The THEO system promotes active mobility and healthy leisure in the territory, and contributes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, which in turn is made possible by a non-motorised, low-traffic infrastructure where the Tayarunde greenway forms the backbone of the network.**



Slovakia: "Bicyklom po stopách SN"

"Discovering the Slovak National Uprising by bike"



CYKLOKORYTNÍČKA
Ružomberok - Korytnica

UKONČENIE CYKLOSEZÓNY

19.10.2019

Pozývame vás na spoločnú jazdu bicyklami z Ružomberka do Korytnice, ktorou ukončíme cyklistickú sezónu na CykloKorytničke.

9.00 hod. - zraz na štarte
/koniec ul. Šoltésovej, smer BB/

TRASA PROGRAMU VYHRAZENÁ

RUŽOMBEROK BILÝ POTOK JAZTERICE PODOLUCHÁ UPTOVNICA OĽAJA VÁTOČNÝ KORYTNICA KORYTNICA KÚPELE

23km

Miesto Ružomberok - Zväz protifašistických bojovníkov Ružomberok - Klub vojenskej histórie OSTRŮ

BICYKLOM PO STOPÁCH SNP

75. výročie Slovenského národného povstania

15. 6. 2019

- Začiatok podujatia o 10.00 hod.
/Vstupná brána - Štart CykloKorytničky/
- Ukážky historickej vojenskej techniky
/Na trase CykloKorytničky Ružomberok - Lipt. Ozada/
- Beseda s vojenským historikom
/Vojnový park - Biely Potok/
- Atrakcie pre deti
/Vstupná brána - Štart CykloKorytničky/
minitanky, paintball

14.00 REKONŠTRUKCIA BOJOV
OBRANA REVÚCKEJ DOLINY POČAS SNP
miesto: Podsukhá /oddychová zóna/

WWW.RUZOMBEROK.SK



Slovakia: “Bicyklom po stopách SNP” “Discovering the Slovak National Uprising by bike”).



- Sport event carried out before the pandemic, in 2019, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising.
- Sport combined with cultural inputs where participants were riding their bikes on the Cyklokorytnička greenway while discovering the history of the SNU.
- Various small stations were built on the greenway where participants could stop anytime and learn about the SNU.



Italy: La Spoleto Norcia in MTB



Italy: La Spoleto-Norcia in MTB



- A bike race along the former Spoleto-Norcia Railway.
- The event takes place every year and has reached 8 editions.
- Spoleto-Norcia in MTB aims to promote the former Spoleto-Norcia Railway and, to raise the awareness of the public authorities in order to speed up the complete restoration work.
- Organized by the sport association @mtbclubspoieto founded in 1992, it has become the largest cycling event in Central-Southern Italy.
- The event includes a programme of talks about the importance of the nature for human well-being.
- During the event possibility of participating in the trekking activities, organised by SpoletoCammina or in the inclusive cycle tour.



OURWAY PreservatiOn and promotion of cUltural and natural
heRitage through GreenWAYS

>> **New regions and counties integrate greenways & cycle routes network into regional policy.**

E.G. Podkarpackie, (Poland)

- The Cycling Policy (baseline doc prepared, pending of their approval)
- The Concept for development of greenways and regional bicycle routes network. Preparing the document (2022-2023)
- Expand the network of tourist bicycle routes in the Bieszczady Mountains and their inclusion in the Green Velo bicycle route (on-going) (1Mill € technical docs)
- Cycling tourism subpanel/working group in new RSI WP 2021-2030,
- Development of greenways and an integrated network of bicycle routes and paths, of Podkarpackie included in the Development Strategy of the Podkarpackie Region 2030



OURWAY PreservatiOn and promotion of cUltural and natural heRitage through GreenWAYS

Podkarpackie (Poland), ex-post evaluation of projects' effects

We implement solutions which we have learned in OurWay project:

Regional Bicycle Policy is approved by MB of Podkarpackie Region, Bicycle Policy Officer is established, the documentation of the bicycle trails in Bieszczady Mountains is ready for building and wait for money from EU.

Kasia Madej (you met her during the project) organize bicycle trips in Beskid Niski, Bieszczady and abroad; we are in constant contact with our stakeholders we met in the project etc.

– in my opinion OurWay project gave us the impuls for development this branch of tourism/quality of life/ideas for life/development of the region.



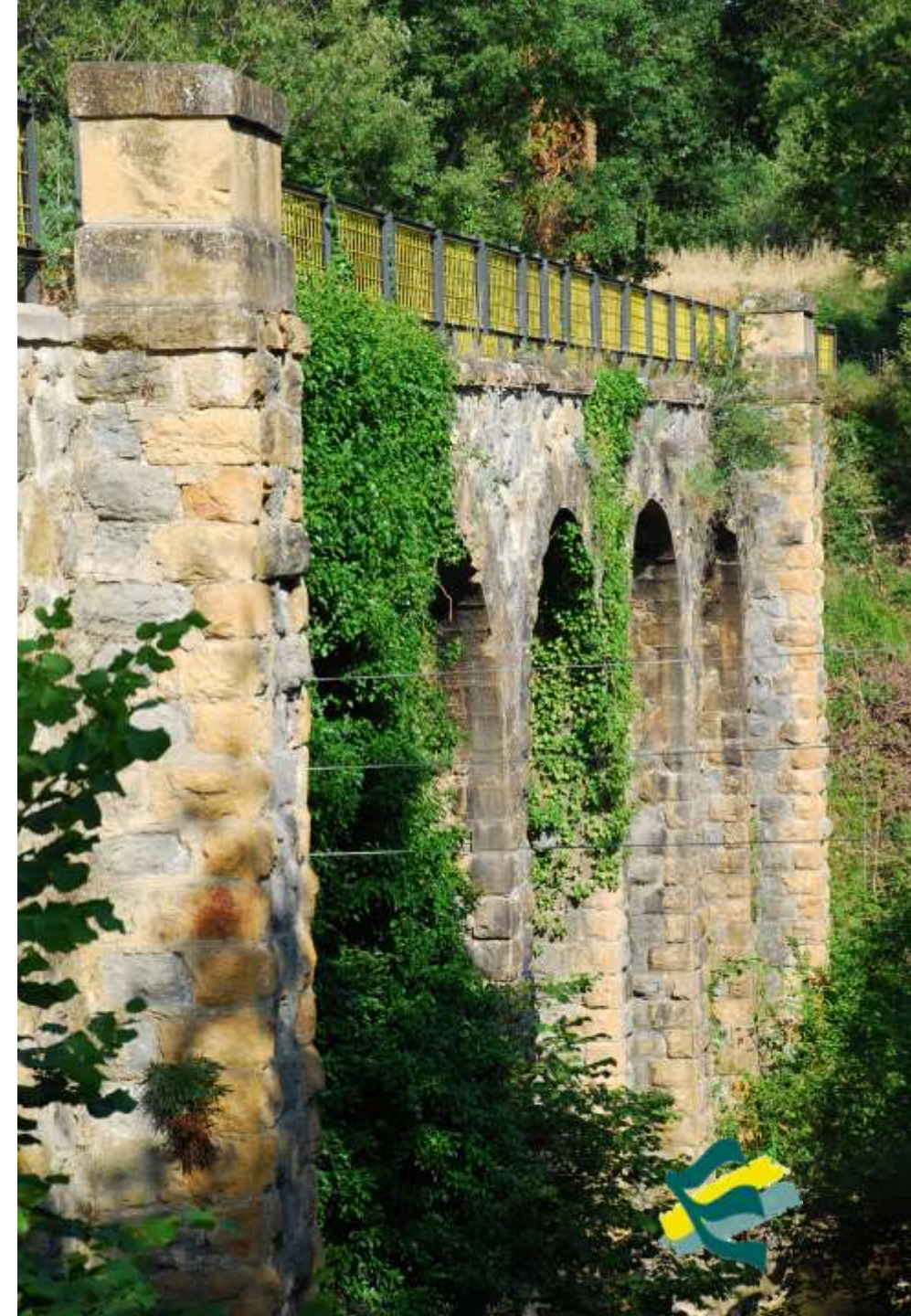
Antoni JEZ Marshal's Office of the Podkarpackie Region Poland 18/ October/2023

Definition of an EU strategy for **sustainable tourism**:

European Parliament's request to the European Commission

- ✓ Encourage the conversion of abandoned railway lines into greenways.
- ✓ Financial support to EuroVelo to promote cycle tourism in Europe.
- ✓ Cycle-train intermodality

[European Parliament resolution of 25 March 2021 on establishing an EU strategy for sustainable tourism \(2020/2038\(INI\)\)](#)



Rete Ferroviaria Italiana and the European Greenways Association are pleased to invite you to the

11th European Greenways Award

International Conference on Greenways and Sustainable Tourism

Rome, **20 November 2023!!**
11:00am - 7:00pm

Campidoglio - Sala della Protomoteca
Piazza del Campidoglio 1



 ROMA CAPITALE
 RFI

 greenways
 ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE DES VOIES VERTES
EUROPEAN GREENWAYS ASSOCIATION
ASOCIACIÓN EUROPEA DE VÍAS VERDES



Join EGWA!!



Thanks for your attention!



GREENWAYS, A MUST TO SUSTAINABLE TOURISM!


 ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE DES VOIES VERTES
 EUROPEAN GREENWAYS ASSOCIATION
 ASOCIACIÓN EUROPEA DE VÍAS VERDES



Photos: awarded greenways 10th EGA 2021

