



## REGULATIONS

### 10<sup>th</sup> European Greenways Award, 2021

#### Presentation

**The European Greenways Association (EGWA)** was created in 1998 in Namur (Belgium) with the aim of encouraging the creation and promotion of greenways in Europe. It brings together more than 50 different organizations from 15 European countries involved in the development of greenways. More info [www.aevv-egwa.org](http://www.aevv-egwa.org)

Established in 2003, the biennial **European Greenways Award (EGA)** is presented to greenway projects that stand out for their excellence and demonstration of best practice.

## REGULATIONS

### Article 1 The greenway concept

Greenways are "**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. In this respect, canal towpaths and disused railway lines are a highly suitable resource for the development of greenways.**" (Lille Declaration, 12 September 2000).

The greenways offer a very broad audience access to alternative travel infrastructures, with these main characteristics:

- Comfort, accessibility and safety, since they are separate from motorised traffic.
- Open for use by all, on foot, by bike, roller skates, wheel chairs, etc,
- Services for users along the greenways.

Greenways are also attractive and convivial travel routes. They have a positive impact in many areas:

- Preservation and enhancement of the cultural and industrial heritage: former railways, waterways, civil engineering structures (bridges, tunnels, locks,...)



- Increasing active non-motorised commuting and travel for leisure and tourism contributes to reduce air pollution and traffic congestion in towns and to tackling climate change while promoting sustainable mobility.
- Quality of life in urban and suburban areas.
- Preservation of public land.
- Economic, social and sustainable tourist development including disadvantaged regions or neighbourhoods requiring revitalisation.
- Public health and sport.
- Discovery of, and learning about, the environment in urban and natural areas.
- Major role during the COVID pandemic in providing safe and accessible infrastructure for outdoor activities, contributing greatly to people's physical and mental well-being.

## Article 2 – Organisation terms

To underline and encourage actions conducted to promote greenways in Europe and to co-ordinate initiatives related to this concept as well, the EGWA in cooperation with Generalitat Valenciana (Valencia Region), through the Regional Ministry of Territorial Policy, Public Works and Mobility and the Spanish Railways Foundation, is organising the 10<sup>th</sup> European Greenways Award 2021. The objective is to promote examples of best practices and to support their replication for other greenways all over Europe. The **European Greenways Award** will be granted only to greenways under the [Lille Declaration](#), as well as to initiatives already in existence.

A Technical Committee will make a preliminary examination of the candidacies, and it likewise assists the jury in its choice. It reserves the right to verify locally the achievements submitted in the applications.

The Technical Committee is composed by representative's members of the EGWA and can be open to partnership entities supporting the award organisation.

The Jury. On the basis of a prior examination done by the Technical Committee, the jury will select the awarded candidacies acknowledging an achievement in greenways related to the 3 categories of the awards. The jury's decisions are not subject to appeal, and are taken by a majority of votes. The jury reserves the right not to award all the prizes.

The chairperson and the secretary of the technical committee will aid the jury, with voice but without vote.

The jury will be composed by representatives of European and other international institutions and qualified personalities competent to identify exemplary achievements in greenways in Europe.

## Article 3 – Prize categories

### A. Excellence awards

Under this category the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes will be awarded to three exemplary greenways that show the best integration of the various characteristics that define greenways, (art. 1) and which also demonstrate specific strengths which, in the opinion of the jury, make them exemplary. The success of these facilities should be evidenced by their public popularity (by providing data from

surveys, counters ...) and demonstrable impact on sustainable development based in an environmentally friendly daily mobility, leisure and tourism.

## B. Exemplary initiatives

A 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes will be awarded to the exemplary initiatives carried out in relation to greenways. This category is open to any activity related to greenways in its broadest sense: design, construction, management, promotion, equipments, signposting, emphasising other resources of the territory (cultural or natural heritage...), maintenance, citizen implication for local inhabitants, etc. Its main objective is to promote good practices and their possible replication for any other European greenway.

As an example, prizes will recompense initiatives related to: Preservation of cultural heritage; sustainable mobility; services provided to users; landscape treatment and attractiveness; networking; communication (press, video, media); concrete digital innovative actions; actions addressed to access an inclusion to greenways of specific target groups: youth, children, mobility impaired people, seniors, disadvantaged groups ; voluntary programs, (...)

In this special edition candidacies related to showcase any kind of best practices as a response to the Covid-19 outbreak, as well as actions taking an effective climate action will be highly appreciated.

Regarding actions in COVID times, initiatives to show case best practices as a response to the Covid-19 outbreak in a way that has positively impacted on the safe use of the greenways for health and wellbeing of the population and visitors by favouring outdoor activity in greenways, including e.g. actions for improvements in the physical infrastructure, signposting, use of innovative communication channels, (...) that can be promoted as lessons from the pandemic for a better future response of greenways to health threats.

Regarding to tackle climate change, it can include public actions in the areas of climate neutrality and/or innovative climate finance (new funds, taxes, call for grants...) that take into account effective climate action, as well actions to influence the population and local economic actors and their daily behaviour with actions to avoid / reduce climate change, improving their conditions of supply of services and resources.

## C. Special award, Special European Greenways Award EYR 2021



EUROPEAN YEAR OF RAIL

*This special award is part of the activities included in the **EUROPEAN YEAR OF RAIL 2021 (\*) (EYR), STAKEHOLDERS INITIATIVES.***

*Disused railway lines form part of the cultural and industrial heritage of the continent. They represent an architectural heritage of inestimable value; impressive masterpieces of engineering, including stations, tunnels and viaducts. Their conversion into greenways allows us to maintain and protect the continent's cultural and industrial heritage. Also, the conversion of old railway lines into greenways provides a perfect opportunity for the development of sustainable tourism.*



*The greenways offer a very broad audience access to alternative travel infrastructures; transformation of disused railways in greenways is a safe, accessible and inclusive tool to help to reach the decarbonisation objective of the EU. Greenways have a transnational dimension and a great development potential especially in rural area; we estimate that only-15-20 % of the disused lines in Europe has been already transformed.*

A single award will be granted to recompense initiatives that put in value the railway heritage and/or initiatives or tourism products that promote the use of trains, including the transport of bikes, to access to the greenways, and aimed at either one or more of these trails.

The Special award will be addresses only to greenways that use disused railways.

This special award aims to:

- put in value the extraordinary assets of the railway heritage all around Europe, highly contributing to their preservation thanks to new uses for local people and tourist, by bike or walking;
- promote greenways, that use abandon railways lines, for active and sustainable mode of transport, to contribute to the Union's climate neutrality objective by 2050 and by reaching out to the wider public, youth, families, ...;
- highlight the European, transnational and cross-border dimension of the greenways, that brings citizens closer together, allows them to explore the Union in all its diversity in a sustainable way without borders and barriers, fosters cohesion and contributes to a greater feeling of Europeans among citizens;
- enhance the contribution of the greenways to Union economy, industry and society, covering in particular aspects related to local development, competitiveness of the SMEs around greenways, sustainable tourism, innovation, employment, education, youth and culture; connecting cultural and natural assets around greenways by soft mobility infrastructure, and improving accessibility for persons with disabilities (Greenways4ALL) to allow them enjoy great outdoors, even in mountain areas, thanks to the low slopes and the use of tunnels and bridges; these infrastructures, including the railway line itself as well as tunnels and bridges will disappear without the greenways because no money will be spend for repairing them, if it is not for this specific use. In many cases those disused railways lines connect with railway station on active lines; in those case de greenways are great tool for encouraging intermodality, to favour the active mobility.

As examples of possible initiatives/products that might be candidates for this special prize we shall be considering:

- the implementation of greenways that put in value the extraordinary assets of the railway heritage all around Europe, highly contributing to their preservation thanks to new uses for local people and tourist, by bike or walking.
- initiatives and events to raise awareness and to attract more people to use greenways and trains, including bike transport, specially to access to the greenways, as a means to combat climate change;

- good practices of national, regional and local level, between authorities, civil society, business on promoting the use of the greenways and the transformation of the abandoned railways as greenways, and how to implement behavioural change about sustainable mobility at all levels.

Candidates' application must refer to specific/s greenway/s

The usefulness of the initiative/product and its impact on users, its innovative nature, the sustainability of the initiative/product, the available resources, as well as its role as a best practice reference for other greenways will be considered.

(\* *Decision (EU) 2020/2228 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 December 2020 on a European Year of Rail (2021) and published on 28 December, available on Eur-lex in all languages here: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32020D2228>.*

## Article 4– Nature of the awards

Each winner will receive a diploma and a trophy symbolising the objectives pursued by the EGWA. The Award-winners will benefit from the publicity and communication on the award which will be broadcast at a Europe-wide level so as to publicise examples of best practice and 'know-how' in the field of greenways. Also, the award-winning candidates will have their projects exhibited on the EGWA site and promoted internationally as examples of good practices in conferences, social networks and other promotional tools EGWA related, as the European Greenways Observatory.

One representative of each award-winning candidacy will be invited by the organisation to receive the award at the presentation ceremony to be held at Valencia **region, in Spain, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.**

## Article 5– Conditions for participation

Applications can be submitted by public or private organisations, associations involved with the development of greenways or those that set up exemplary initiatives in the field of greenways, as well as small and medium size enterprises (SME), that work towards the generation of tourism business and the commercialisation of integrated tourism packages based on these trails, likewise companies operating in the cultural and creative sectors (CCIs) in one of the Member States of the European Union, EFTA countries, the official Candidate Countries for European Union membership, as well as other member states of the Council of Europe.

Candidates wishing to apply for more than one category must submit one application per category.

Greenways awarded in the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of 2019 with any of the Awards given in will not be eligible in this 10<sup>th</sup> edition.

All the information will be available on the 10<sup>th</sup> EGA website:  
[www.europeangreenwaysaward.org](http://www.europeangreenwaysaward.org)





Participation in the European Greenways Award entails compliance with and acceptance of the conditions of these regulations by the participants.

## Article 6– Applications

Only dossiers using an application form, and complying with the procedures set down in this article shall be considered. The Technical Committee will be responsible for verifying that the dossiers transmitted to the jury comply with the eligibility criteria.

### ***The dossiers will consist of:***

An Application form: That will be submitted in electronic format. Application forms will be available in English through the 10<sup>th</sup> EGA website and must be only submitted in English The application forms must be received by **Thursday 27 May 2021** at the latest.

Supplementary documents supporting each candidacy (leaflets, photos, maps, publications, gps tracks, videos...) can be sent in any language.

Applicants are encouraged to send their **complementary information** electronically or in a **digital support (USB & DVD & CD)**

Any complementary information must be received by Thursday **27 May at the latest** to the address below.

Documents received after this deadline will not be accepted. Incomplete dossiers, or dossiers sent in several parts will not be accepted. Please **indicate** the title of your **candidacy** and a **contact name** when sending the **supplementary documents**. Complete dossiers shall be kept by EGWA.

Supplementary documents must be submitted to:

European Greenways Association (EGWA) - 10<sup>th</sup> EGA  
Fundación de los Ferrocarriles Españoles – Vías Verdes  
C/ Santa Isabel, 44  
28012 Madrid, SPAIN

## Article 7 – Results and Ceremony of the Awards

The jury will decide the winners of the prizes that will be informed by EGWA. The prize-winners are asked not to communicate or use any public reference to the award before the official ceremony.

The **awards ceremony** will be held on **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at Valencia region, in Spain.**

