



# The National Vías Verdes Program in Spain

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



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

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✿ Spanish Railways Foundation → public entity since 1985 attached to the Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda



✿ **Patronage:** its President is **RENFE's** President (Public Railway Company), and its Vice-President is **ADIF's** President (Railways Infrastructures Manager). Other members: Regional railway companies, subways, ....

✿ **Objectives:** research, maintenance of railways' cultural heritage, and the coordination and promotion of the Spanish **Vías Verdes / Greenways Programme** since 1993.

**Founding patrons:**   

**Patrons:**



Vías Verdes (Greenways or Vie Verdi) in Spain are the result of converting just **only** the disused railway lines into car free routes suitable for non-motorised mobility, leisure and tourism.





## The Spanish Railways Foundation (SRF)

Prepared in 1993 the **Inventory of Disused Railway Lines** commissioned by, at that time, Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Environment, Renfe and Feve.

### **DISUSED RAILWAYS LINES IN SPAIN (1993)**



**7.600 km  
disused  
railway lines**

- 954 stations
- 501 tunnels
- 1.070 bridges





# Today, after 30 years of existence...



The  
progress is  
surprisingly  
positive!!!



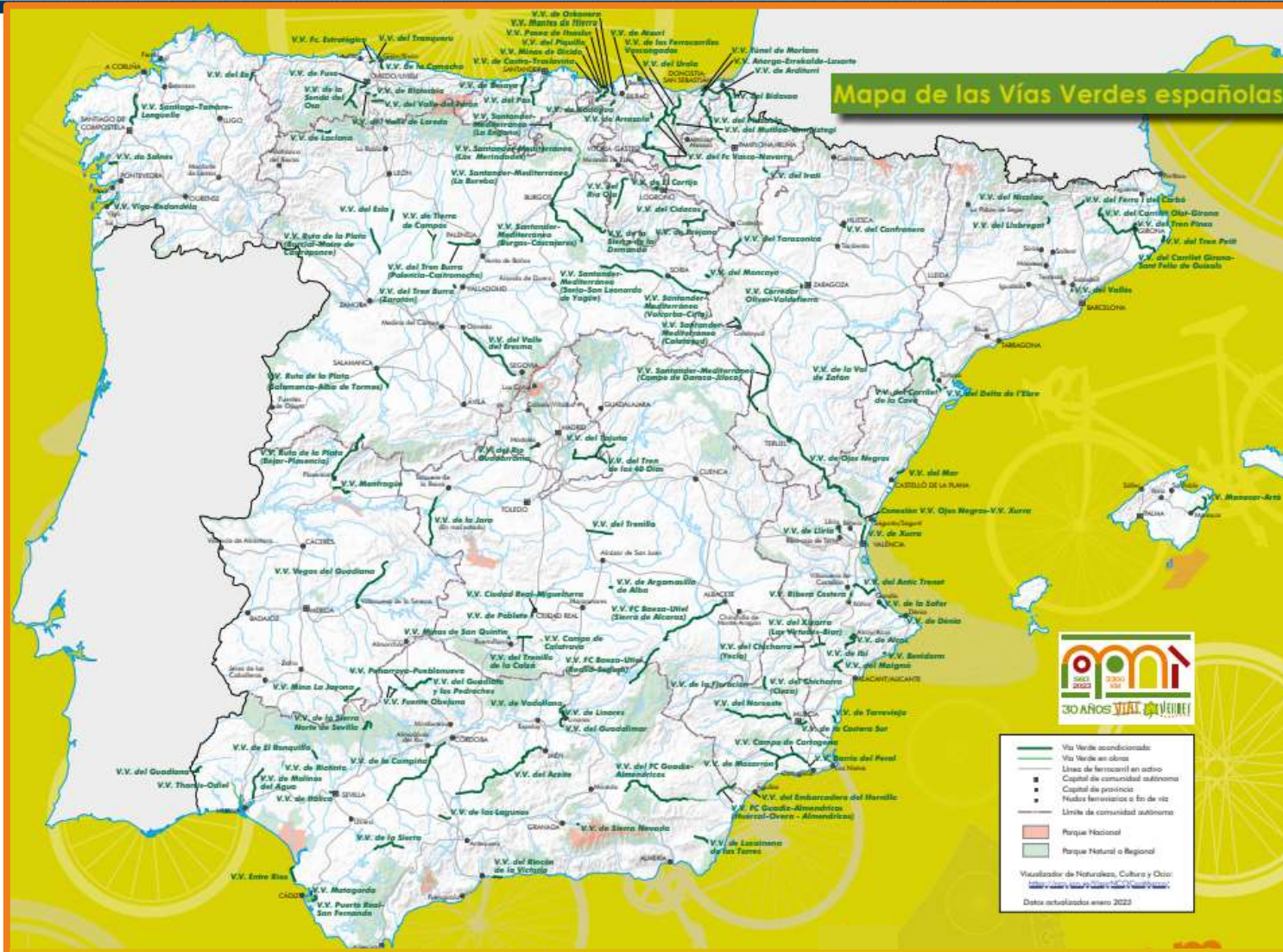
November  
2023

135

Greenways:  
Non-  
motorised  
itineraries

3.436 km  
(including  
GW under  
works)

130  
rehabilitated  
railway  
buildings



- 114 km / year... not so much!
- Initial investment: 244 Millions €



**1994: the brand “Vías Verdes” (*Greenways*) was registered by FFE (SRF). The use of which is legally restricted in Spain to old railway infrastructure reused as non-motorized, sustainable itineraries**





## Close collaboration between bodies of Public Administration:

- Ministry of Transport and Environment (in the past) and now **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food**: has a specific budget each year for building non-motorised infrastructures. (**Natural Ways** / Caminos Naturales Programme).
- **Public Railways Companies**: ADIF and (before FEVE, narrow lines-Adif) Ministry of Transport, provides their abandoned lines and buildings (by rent)



### - **Spanish Railways Foundation.**

Greenways Area: make the promotion, coordination and marketing at national and international level.





## Close collaboration between bodies of Public Administration:

- Regional Governments (16 out of 17)
- 22 county councils
- More than 500 Local Authorities
- Communities or “consortium” of local authorities

They are responsible for:

- ✓ Preparation of studies and engineering projects
- ✓ Obtaining patrimonial disposal over buildings and infrastructure.
- ✓ Managing, maintenance and promotion





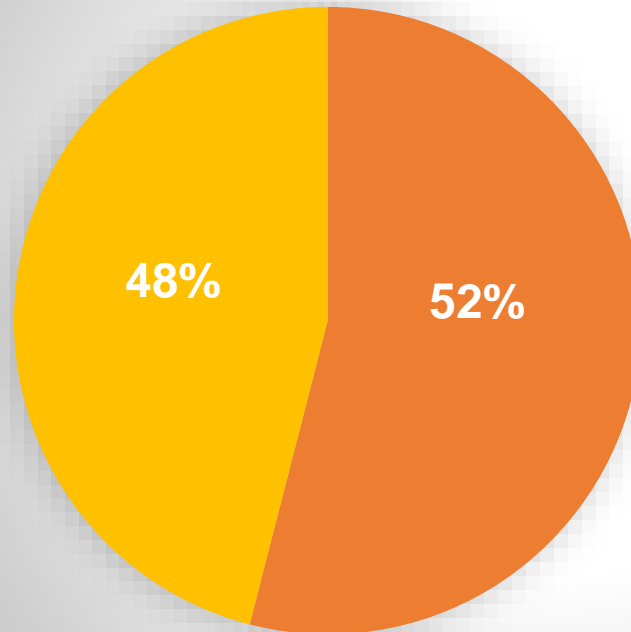
The Spanish Railways Foundation has drafted more than 100 technical projects for the recovery of these infrastructures



**IMPORTANT  
INSTITUTIONAL  
COLLABORATION**



Conditionated Greenways (km)



Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (and previous)

Regional & Local Public Administration



# **Infrastructure: Recovery of impressive heritage, engineering structures, viaducts, bridges, tunnels and buildings**

GW promote active and sustainable mobility, healthy leisure, sustainable rural development, active and accessible tourism and also....

## **#Cyclotourism**

- #Hiking
- #Ecotourism
- #BirdWatching





# Recovery of viaducts and railway bridges





## Security and Accessibility for EVERYONE

The importance of recovering tunnels, railway infrastructures or new footbridges





In 1993 Spain had **501 tunnels** in abandoned railways lines. Spain is, after Switzerland, the second most mountainous country in Europe ...





## Facilities and services: restoration of disused railways stations

In 1993 there were **954** railways stations in desuse

In 2023 there are **125** railways stations restored and with touristic uses



Before ...

FFE is preparing al Inventoy of Railways Stations already recovered



After ...



# Local employment and support for the rural areas economy







# Accommodation & restaurants



Hotels, hostels, attractive apartments, caravan sites, restaurants, cafes...





## Recovery of Built Heritage and Tourist Services: Bike rental, information offices, museums: Rural tourism





Many facilities ... even swimming pools





## Preservation of mobile railway equipment

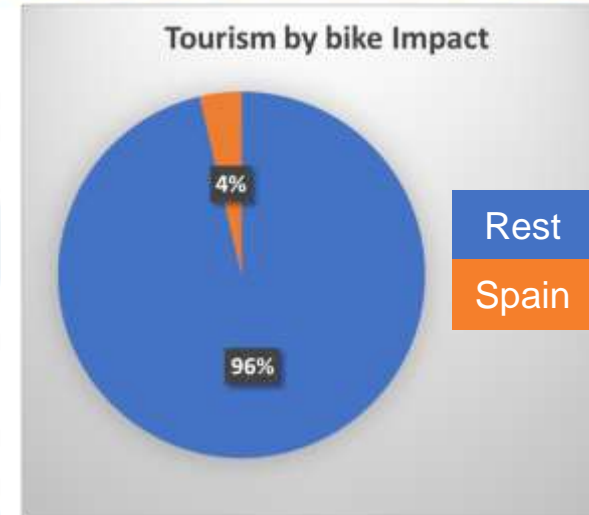


Sometimes with new uses





## Economic importance of cyclotourism in Europe



Europe: **44.000 Millon €** - direct impact.

Spain: **1.600 Millon €** - Enormous growth potential.

In a broad sense: **150.000 millon €** the annual benefits brought by cycling in Europe

*Not only more impact than other activities, but also better distributed in the territory with importance for local economies and rural territories.*



# Greenways and CYCLOTURISM ! A PERFECT TANDEM !





30 years later, the same objectives are still in force, and are more than ever part of the current Spanish Government Strategies and aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, the 2030 Agenda...



❖ **Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda → State Bicycle Strategy.** Approved in 2021. SRF manages the Calls for aid to small municipalities for investment in cycling infrastructure...15 Million €.



The 1st call is in development ! Next Calls are coming SOON!





## Estrategia estatal por la bicicleta

Salud, medioambiente, economía, equidad y sociabilidad



## SRF (Vías Verdes) in 2 interministerial Work Groups:

- Cyclotourism
- Intermodality



**PLANES DE SOSTENIBILIDAD TURÍSTICA EN DESTINO**  
Convocatoria extraordinaria 2021



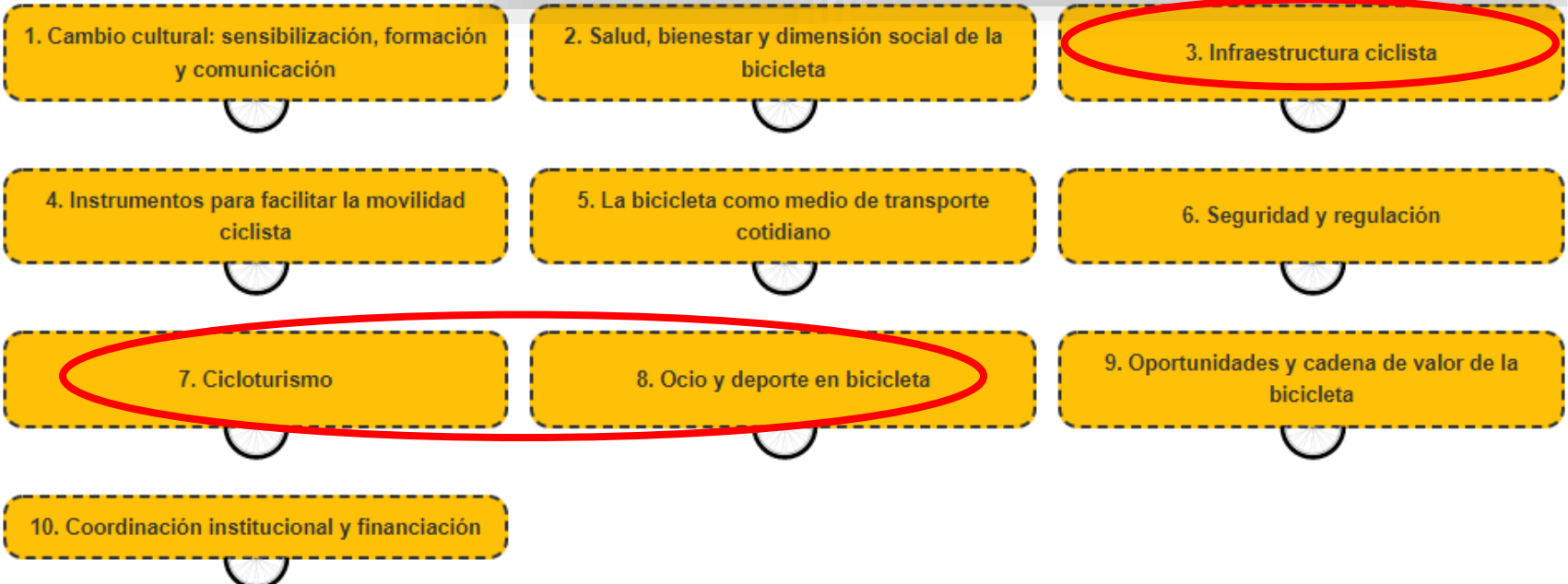


## Estrategia estatal por la bicicleta

Salud, medioambiente, economía, equidad y sociabilidad



GW are included at least in 3 lines of the State Bicycle Strategy





# Collaboration with the State Bicycle Strategy.

**Estrategia estatal por la bicicleta**  
Salud, medioambiente, economía, equidad y sociabilidad

Future Viewer web that includes all the cyclist itineraries (of course GW!)  
National Geographic Institute and other actors.



## CHEMINS NATURELS ET VOIES VERTES

### LUGO

#	Km	Nom
1	15,82	CN Cantábrico

### OURENSE

2	41,00	CN Ribera Sacra
3	71,85	CN Interor. San Rosendo
4	13,71	CN Río Barbanfío
5	14,24	CN Dos Arriales
6	16,23	CN Carballeda de Avia

### PONTEVEDRA

7	5,90	CN Rutas Ecológicas del Río Cabra
8	10,69	CN Sendas en Álbal

### ASTURIAS-LUGO

9	11,28	VV Eo
10	6,57	VV La Canecha
11	600,68	CN Cordillera Cantábrica
12	8,46	VV Pazo
13	15,65	CN Río Nalón (Pazo - Tuñón)
14	27,49	VV Senda del Oso (Tuñón - Entrago)
15	10,24	C.N. - VV Senda del Oso (Valdemorillo - Santa Marina)
16	6,72	CN Senda del Oso (Santa Marina - Ribadeo)
17	9,17	CN Senda del Oso (Entrago - Cueva Huerta)
18	1,29	CN Muñigo - Covadonga
19	1,38	VV Tranquera
20	12,82	VV Valle del Turón
21	10,16	VV FC Estratégico
22	2,93	VV Ribotuerto
23	7,67	VV Valle de Lorado

### ASTURIAS

24	5,61	VV Castro - Tradavilla
25	27,03	VV Pás
26	7,36	CN - VV Villabacusa y Sarón - La Panilla (Pas)
27	6,53	CN Valle de Toranzo
28	1,93	VV Piquillo
29	9,51	VV Minas de Dicio

### CANTABRIA

30	18,82	VV Alfoz de Llanes
31	10,16	VV FC Estratégico
32	2,93	VV Ribotuerto
33	7,67	VV Valle de Lorado
34	5,61	VV Castro - Tradavilla
35	27,03	VV Pás
36	7,36	CN - VV Villabacusa y Sarón - La Panilla (Pas)
37	6,53	CN Valle de Toranzo
38	1,93	VV Piquillo
39	9,51	VV Minas de Dicio

40	1,80	VV Alfoz de Llanes
41	1,73	VV Montañas Ibáñez

### VIZCAYA

42	3,79	VV Aizuri
43	4,92	VV Arzobispo
44	2,21	VV Paseo Itzazul
45	6,76	CN - VV Abuzuraga - Gallarta (Montes de Hierro)
46	13,82	CN - VV Galdames - Sopuerta (Montes de Hierro)
47	16,21	VV Montes de Hierro
48	5,65	VV Orkenera
49	14,23	VV Kadaguz
50	5,64	VV Irati
51	36,46	VV Bidasoa
52	16,33	CN - VV Plazaola

### HUESCA

53	7,92	CN Sierra de San Quixaz
54	25,94	CN Pedro Saputo
55	3,09	CN Embalse de Lanuza
56	10,33	CN Sifón de Abadía
57	53,03	CN Somontano de Barbastro
58	10,90	CN Castañón de Meñegros
59	14,88	CN Loreto y VV del Carrizoso

### HUESCA-ZARAGOZA

60	132,97	CN Hoya de Huesca
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### NAVARRA-ZARAGOZA

61	21,53	CN - VV Tarazona
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### ZARAGOZA

62	2,69	VV Corridor Valtierra
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### TERUEL

63	4,69	CN Río Gualdaviar
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### TERUEL-ZARAGOZA

64	75,41	CN Matarrana-Algars
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### TERUEL-TARRAGONA

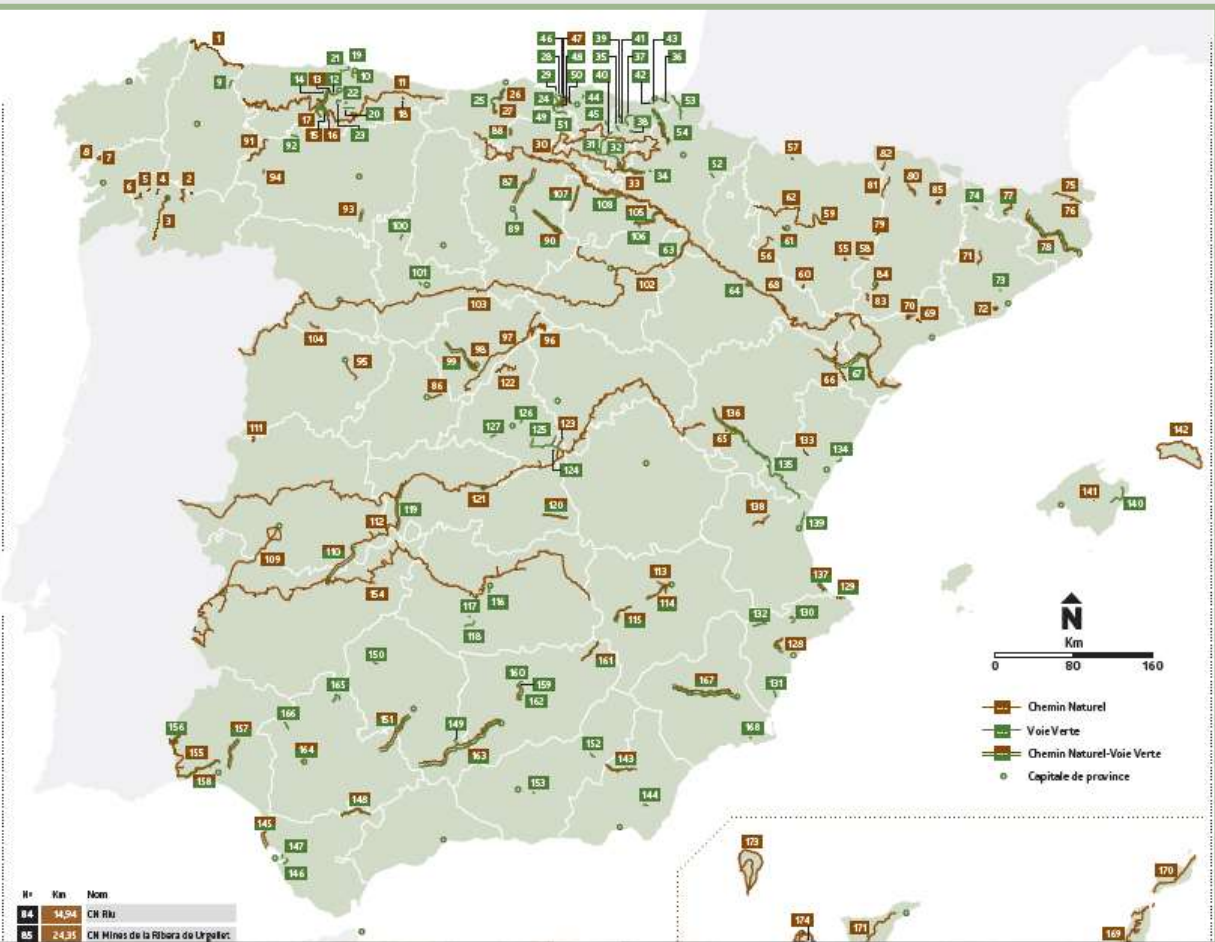
65	92,74	CN - VV Val de Zafán, Terra Alta y Balc Ebre
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### VARIAS

66	1283,39	CN Ebro. GR-99
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### TARRAGONA

67	24,31	CN Minas de la Ribera de Urgel
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#	Km	Nom
84	14,94	CN Riu
85	24,31	CN Minas de la Ribera de Urgel



# How many uses do Greenways/Vías Verde have?





## Promotion and communication of the Spanish Greenways Programme at a national level.



## Quality Brad





# Some Greenways and destinations have their strategies of promotion of these itineraries. Others no ... so FFE plays this role for all Spanish Greenways.

- Management of European and other projects



Co-funded by the COSME programme of the European Union

- International Fairs (Fitur and Fiets en Wandelbeurs)
- Radio & TV
- Media articles
- Workshops & Conferences
- Call for citizen activities





**www.viasverdes.com**

**NEW WEB PAGE at the end of the year 2023!!**

**+ 2,3 millions pages views in 2022**  
**+ 567.000 unique visitors**

**InfoVías Verdes**  
**Monthly Newsletter**



**Vías Verdes Travel Guide**  
**Ed. Anaya Touring + digital version**

**Descárgate la APP**



**ANDROID APP ON Google play**

**Disponible en App Store**

**+ 8.000 Android users**  
**+ 3.000 iOs users**

Boletín InfoVías verdes

Nº 250 - Noviembre 2023

04/11/2023

Las Vías Verdes presentes en la 2ª edición de Global Mobility Call

Global Mobility Call se celebró en FEMA Madrid del 24 al 26 de octubre de 2023 y en este evento las Vías Verdes y la Fundación de los Ferrocarriles Españoles estuvieron presentes junto con las European Greenways.

Rural Mobility Conference

¡Nueva fecha! La FFE participa en la Conferencia Internacional de Vías Verdes y Turismo Sostenible en Roma, en el marco de los 11º Premios Europeos de Vías Verdes

**Suscríbete al Boletín**

**2023**

Mapa Oficial de Carreteras ESPAÑA



**Official Road Map –**  
**Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda**



**wikiloc**

**+ 70.000 followers**  
**+ 1.200.000 viewed clips**  
**+ 6.400 YouTube subscribers**



Spanish Greenways Day: In May. Since 1999 ...

2023: more than 25 activities all over the country & more than 6.000 users celebrating it

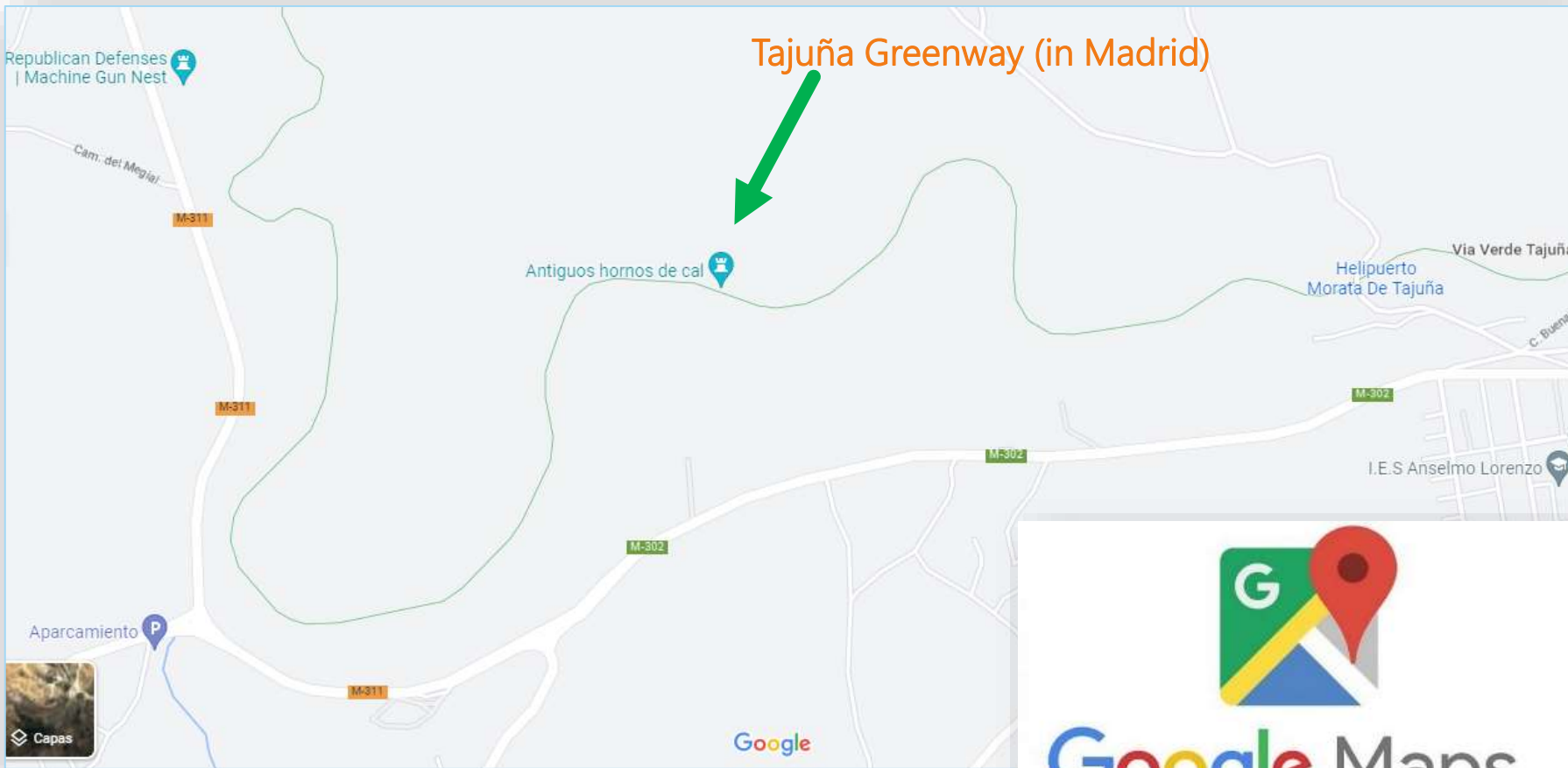
Local activities during all year long.





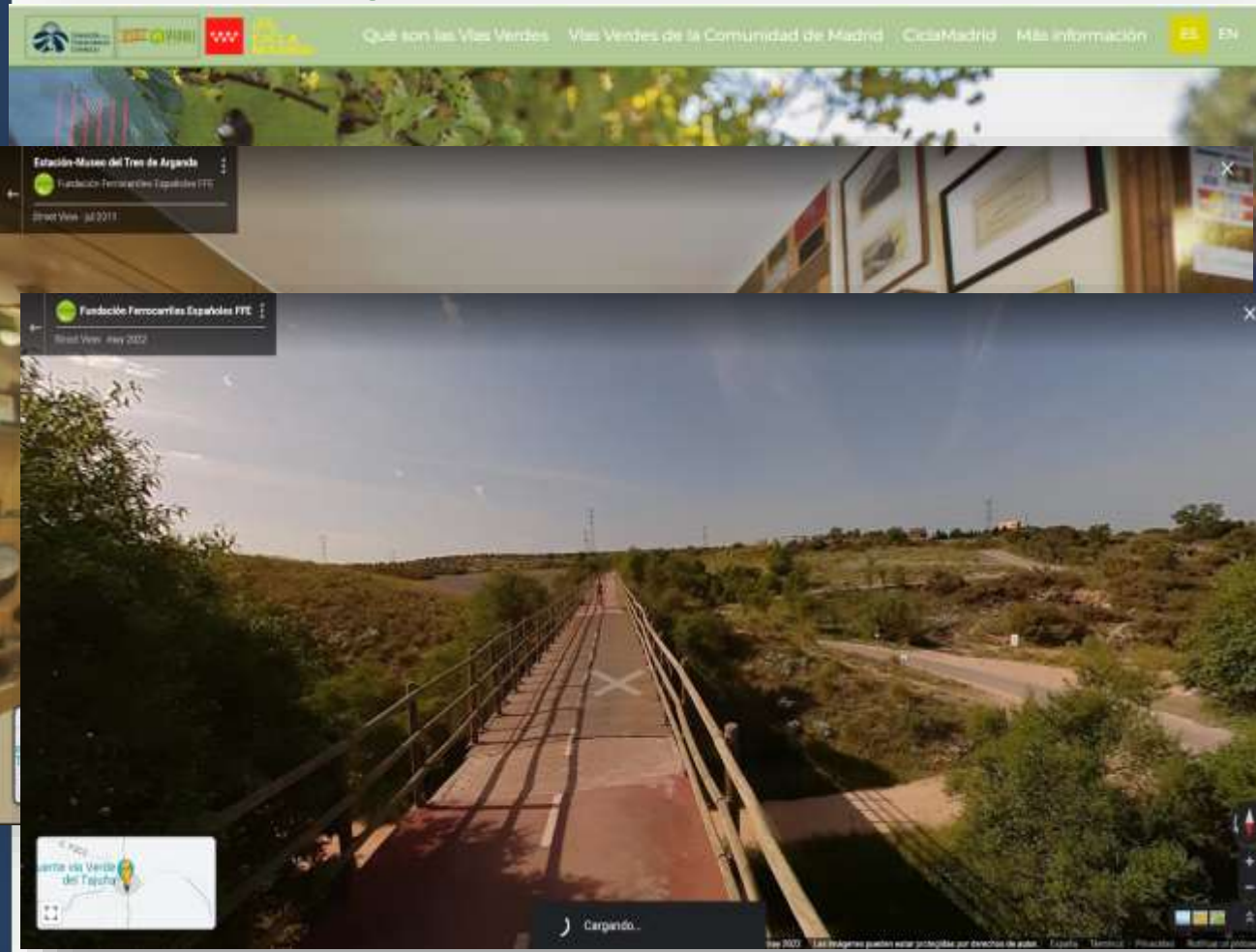


# All of the Spanish Greenways are available on Google Maps.





# Towards more digital Greenways. 360°. Basque Country, Navarra, Madrid,



**Greenways on Google Maps Street View, Google Earth**

**Google Art & Culture Projects**



-  Vías Verdes Leaflet
-  Brochure Voies Vertes
-  Vías Verdes Broschüre
-  Vias Verdes Brochure
-  Further information
-  Plus d'Informations
-  Weitere Informationen
-  Brochure Vias Verdes

General Greenways brochure in 6 languages

## Vías Verdes as part of the new tourist markets

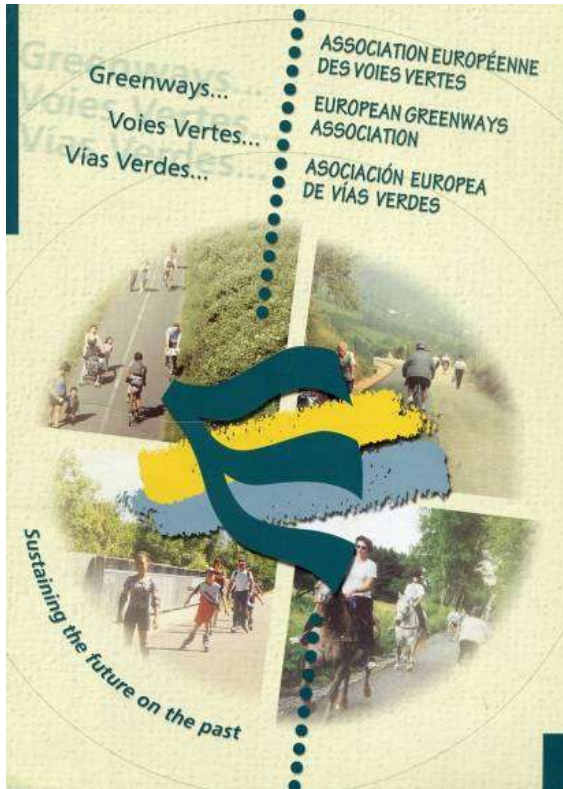
- Inclusion of content in the Spain.info portal in 4 languages
- Press and Fam trips
- Social media campaigns, press, fairs, etc...



Annual Action Plan Spanish Railways Foundation – Turespaña: Inclusion of the “Vías Verdes” product in abroad promotion strategies



- General Secretary of the European Greenways Association



The Spanish Greenways Programme was awarded with the **First Prize**

International Program of Good Practices of the Habitat Program of the United Nations (2000)





## Main Strategic Lines for Advancement:

1. Maintain the identifying image of the Railway as the origin of these infrastructures, as a product of heritage recovery as well as the "Vías Verdes" brand.

2. Harmonize the different marks and denominations: Greenways, Nature Trails, *bidegorris* networks....





### 3. Creation of the "SpainByBike" State Network of Cycling Routes

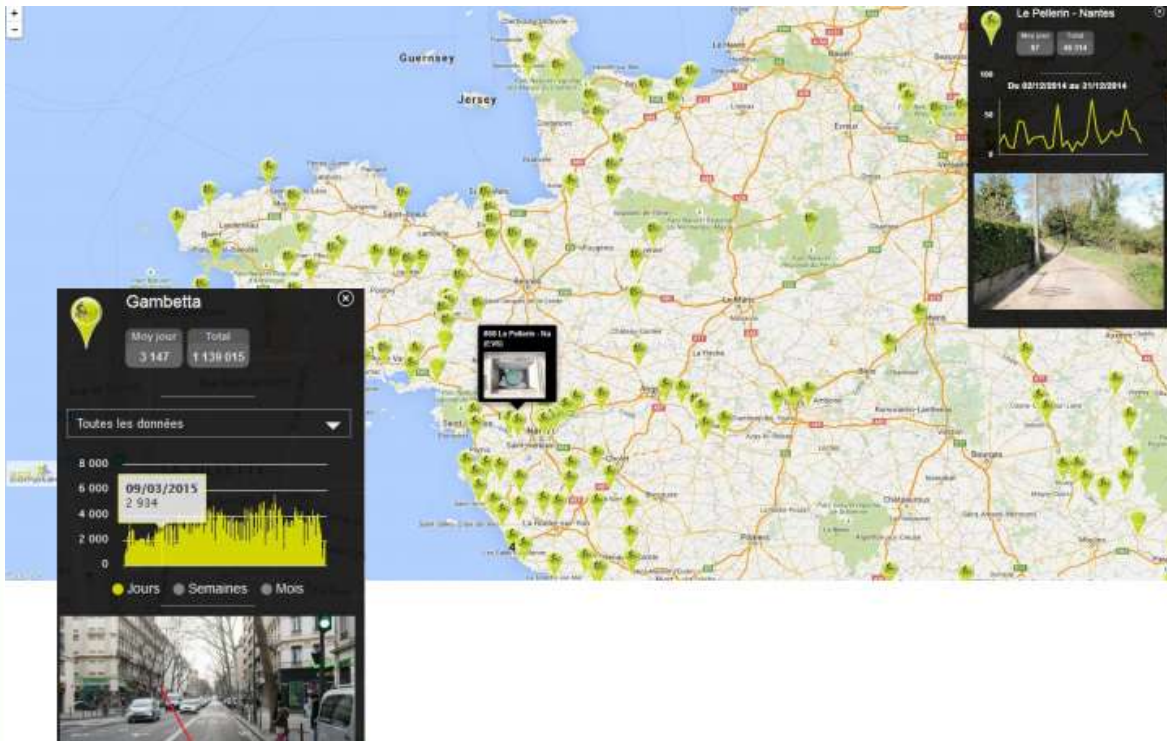
To position Spain as a **cycling tourism destination**, we need more Greenways and connectivity between them and with the towns, Natural Trails, European EuroVelo routes... long-distance itineraries....

Organize it, promote it on the NETWORK and create an unique website!  
(In progress)





## 4. Monitoring. Comparative use and socio-economic impact must be measured.



- Eco-counters on all greenways, as basic equipment in construction projects.
- Demand Studies. Statewide survey. Users/visitors
- Methodologies comparable to those already in use in France and other countries.

## 5. Improved management processes and more maintenance support





## 6. Railway Access to Vías Verdes and cycle routes

*One of the Opportunities and Necessities to go further...*



- Railway, the preferred transport for cyclists  
“Cyclists Loves Trains” – ECF
- Need to advance in intermodality (cycle tourism / leisure)
- Need for more and clearer information about the bike on the trains







Spanish Greenways: More than 3.400 km  
for cycling, mobility, health, tourism and  
environment in Spain

Grazie mille!  
Thanks!



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