



**8th
European
Greenways
Award - 2017**

REGULATIONS

8th European Greenways Award, 2017

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

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.

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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,...)
- The growth of non-motorised commuting and travel for leisure and tourism tends to reduce the effects of air pollution and traffic congestion in towns.
- Quality of life in urban and suburban areas.
- Preservation of public land.
- Economic, social and tourist development including disadvantaged regions or neighbourhoods requiring revitalisation.

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- Public health and sport.
- Discovery of, and learning about, the environment in urban and natural areas.

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 the [Limerick City and County Council](#) is organising the 8th European Greenways Award 2017. 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 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 2 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 1st, 2nd and 3rd 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 and demonstrable impact on sustainable development.

B. Exemplary initiatives

A 1st, 2nd and 3rd 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,



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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); actions addressed to specific target groups: youth, children, mobility impaired people, seniors ; voluntary programs, (...)

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. Moreover, they will be included in 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 **Limerick, in Ireland, 28th September 2017.**

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, in one of the Member States of the European Union, EFTA countries or in the official Candidate Countries for European Union membership.

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

Greenways awarded in the 7th edition of 2015 with any of the Awards given in will not be eligible in this 8th edition.

All the information will be available on the 8th EGA website:
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



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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 8th EGA website and must be only submitted in English The application forms must be received by ***New deadline Tuesday 9 May 2017*** 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 ***New deadline Tuesday 9 May 2017*** **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) - 8th 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 28th September 2017 at Limerick, in Ireland.**



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