



European Greenways Award 2005

The European Greenways Association is happy to renew the experience of the European Greenways Award.

For its first launching in 2003, the Award achieved a great success: thirty-six greenways from thirteen countries were presented.

This year, the winners will receive their Award within the framework of the European Mobility Week (EMW: 16th – 22nd September 2005).

A first, a second and a third European Greenways Award will be given to the greenways which will express in the most significant way the chosen theme for 2005, 'Activities and promotion'.

The activities and the promotion have not only become essential at a local level, but they also play a part in the international tourist influence of the greenway. More original initiatives thrive in this matter and are actively encouraged by the Association.

One greenway will be rewarded with the Mobility Award for its characteristics tailored to the theme of this year's EMW: 'Clever Commuting'.

The objective of this theme is to make the population aware of adopting new habits of commuting to work, to school and city centres... thus avoiding the car, which is responsible for greenhouse gases whose harmful consequences on health and the environment are well known. Sustainable and alternative ways of travelling like cycling, walking or using public transport will thus be stressed.

The Awards are open to all communities, bodies and associations from the European Union which have contributed to the development of a greenway.

The greenway presented must correspond to the greenways definition adopted by the EGWA in the Declaration of Lille:



« 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 ».

Applications must be filed between the 8th of May and the 1st of July 2005 to the EGWA using the application form available on our site.

A jury of international experts from the press and from national and in-

ternational bodies will examine the applications. They will communicate their decision to the winners at the beginning of August.

This event also offers the benefit of wide media coverage of the applicants' activities and of greenways in general.

The European Mobility Week attracts significant coverage from the international press as well as on the website of the European Commission, which is visited by millions of people every day.

To mark the European Mobility Week, the EGWA will also edit a special newsletter on a large scale dedicated to the winners.

Finally, we will publish a catalogue presenting all the applicants, their activities and the proposed greenway.



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.

Springtime in Krakow

In the framework of the Executive Committee in March 2005, the representatives of the EGWA had the honour of meeting the authorities in charge of this superb city, as well as our new member, Transport for London. The Polish Environmental Partnership Foundation (PEPF), the Polish member of the EPCE, had organised the trip in a masterly way. This is how it went ...



Saturday 19th March 2005

The first evening was a rich source of encounters for the representatives of the EGWA, Messrs Tétart, González, Mourek and Perrin. They had the opportunity to make the acquaintance of Messrs Jim Walker and Gary Cliffe, who are respectively the President and the Project Manager of Transport for London, our new English member. This body focuses on creating a strategic network of paths across London, to link the local communities to the green spaces, to public transport and to the local authorities. Local Polish partners were also in attendance at this dinner, and were able to share their experiences in tourism and the local economy around greenways.

Sunday 20th March 2005

Sunday morning was given over to visiting the wonders of Krakow: the royal castle (Wawel), which dominates the Vistula, the great Market Square and its Cloth Hall, and the fabulous Jewish district of Kazimierz... a treat for the eyes and lovers of local specialities.

After this, the group paid a techni-

cal visit to the town of Nowa Huta, a suburb of Krakow, whose socialist realist architecture made it the showcase of communist town planning. Nowa Huta is also an old steel complex, which today is being completely revitalised thanks among other things to the setting up of the greenway that bears its name.

Monday 21st March 2005

Morning at City Hall in Krakow

A meeting at the Krakow City Hall with the deputy Mayor, Mr Tadeusz Trzmiel. Mr Trzmiel describes Krakow as a model in terms of mobility solutions. Even if the city wants to retain its metropolitan character, a transport policy geared towards sustainable development was adopted in 2003, to cover the next 25 years. Public transport currently accounts for 60% of urban journeys. In 2004, 32 greenways are already available and cover 470 km. The planners expect development of between 8 and 10 km per year. The city has a keen interest in greenways and is particularly involved in three of them which pass through Krakow: the Nowa Huta-Dłubnia Greenway and two planned international greenways, the Amber Trail Greenways (Poland–Slovakia–Hungary) and the Krakow-Moravia-Vienna Greenways (Poland–Czech Republic–Austria).

The delegation was then invited to participate in a seminar on greenways. Several international experts spoke on the subject, including our President, Jean-Marie Tétart, who outlined the activities of the EGWA and its future projects. Gilbert Perrin focused on describing

the greenways in several countries in the European Union, and Daniel Mourek those of central and eastern Europe. Andrzej Buszek, from the Municipality of Krakow, looked at the system of cycle paths in Krakow and Mr Krzysztof Kwatera, from the Fundacja Partnerstwo dla Środowiska, explained the objectives and strategies for greenways in Poland.

The visit to City Hall ended with an exhibition mounted by the Fine Arts students in Krakow on the theme of greenways.



Jorge Gonzalez
Daniel Mourek
Nowa Huta
Picture G. Perrin

Executive Committee

Three essential points were addressed by the Executive Committee: the organisation of the European Greenways Award (see article on first page), the ethical specifications for sponsorship and the accession of the new UK member, Transport for London, and the Italian partner MAP (see article).



News from Members

Two new members have joined the EGWA in the past few months: the Swedish Greenways Association and Transport for London. Since the change of the statutes in November 2004, we have opened up our network to private partners under certain conditions. MAP has answered the call. In this issue, we shall introduce the Swedes and the Italians.



Swedish
Greenways
Association
Picture J. Ceder

Swedish Greenways Association

In Sweden, there are six million cyclists, mainly riding in built-up areas. This fact has opened the eyes of several municipalities and regions in Sweden to the chronic shortage of rural cycling paths offering safe access for both cyclists and walkers, as well as those on roller blades and those with reduced mobility. The same applies to the added value to the country in tourism terms. Initiatives to adapt disused railway tracks into 'car-free' paths have thus been undertaken by those municipalities and regions.

Since its recent foundation in 2004, the Swedish Greenways Association (Föreningen Bilfria Leder) has made one of its objectives to lobby at the local and central levels in order to contribute to the setting up of greenways. It is thus acting as an international information point for citizens and tourists alike. That being so, the creation of an international home page where all the Swedish greenways will be presented and able to be compared is in the pipeline.

The association also operates as an expert at several levels: it is co-

ordinating a feasibility study for the construction of a coastal path in the west of the country and collaborating with the Swedish Local Authorities' Association on the drafting of a 'handbook of recommendations' for the development of a greenway. Its President, Per Kågeson, has also drafted a report commissioned by the Tourism Delegation on the 'Conditions of infrastructures for cycle tourism in Sweden', in which he advocates the creation of a project for co-ordinated greenways financed in part by the government, for an amount of approximately 500 million SEK (54.5 million €)



MAP

Presented to the EGWA by the Italian Greenways Association, MAP is an Italian training and consultancy company which occupies a leading role in 'Experiential Learning Training' in the development of human resources. It offers its clients activities which reinforce corporate culture and improve communication and relations and the development of skills.



Latterly, businesses have become more and more aware of the role they have to play in the ethical, social and environmental fields, which are essential for the sake of maintaining a good reputation.

MAP responds to this demand by offering its clients activities which put them in touch with national or international NGOs in order to collaborate on local development projects.

The Greenways project

Created for the company Coloplast, this project seeks to stimulate sustainable tourism development by involving various social partners. A hundred employees, kitted out with equipment and assisted by specialists, have been tasked with mapping and inspecting the Valle Brambana (Bergamo) to identify the possibilities for the development of non-motorised paths. The cultural and ecological potential was also to be taken into account. The results are now available on the sites of the Province of Bergamo and the Italian Bike Promotion Association. Delighted with the experience, Coloplast will be applying itself in the spring to tackling the Brescia-Bergamo-Milan route, and will be repeating this activity with other employees.

MAP is totally convinced by the concept of greenways, and has decided not only to offer this type of activities to other companies, but to extend them to other Italian regions.

Agenda

Get to grips with climate change

In the year of the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, Green Week has decided to devote its 2005 issue to all the aspects of climate change and global warming. From 31st May to 3rd June, there will be a string of experts at 24 conferences who will, on the one hand, be informing the public about the technologies and policies set in place to eradicate the problem, and on the other, be trying to raise the population's awareness and encourage them to adopt new behavioural patterns vis-à-vis the environment.

In parallel with this conference, 60 stands manned by bodies and businesses active in the struggle against climate change will be accessible during the four conference days. This therefore gives visitors the opportunity to find out about innovative technologies and projects, while also being able to meet new partners for future collaborations.

And the children are not being left out, either. European Environment Commissioner Mr Stavros Dimas, accompanied by some political officials, will be holding a debate with a panel of children on climate issues.

For more information on the arrangements for access to the conferences and associated events, please go to the site of the DG Environment of the European Commission:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/greenweek/conference_en.htm



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Velo-city 2005 Dublin

For its 25th anniversary, Velo-city will be hosted by the city of Dublin. On the agenda, four days of conferences gathering more than 150 speakers. The main theme, 'Delivering the Vision', will focus on a vision-led, integrated strategy approach to the development of cycling. Three sub-themes will also be debated: 'Cycling In The Wider Context', 'Balancing The Needs Of Cycling', 'Perceptions Of Cycling/Selling Cycling'. Numerous activities (rides, visits, dinners, galas, dance) will be organised around this event.

Velo-city is aimed at planners, architects, engineers, transportation companies, local authority officials, bicycle users and politicians who are interested in sustainable mobility and in regional development where the bicycle plays an essential role.

Velo-city: from 31st May to 3rd June 2005. Dublin.

Info: www.velo-city2005.com and
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TrailLink 2005

TrailLink 2005, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's international trails and greenways conference, is headed for the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul from 27th June to 1st July 2005.

TrailLink 2005 will examine new trends in trail design and management; explore the public health impact of trails; provide the latest policy and legal updates; and examine other core issues affecting national and international trails, all with a focus on improving communities through expanding trail networks.

Daniel Mourek, our treasurer and Greenways International Manager of EPCE, will give a conference on the following theme: *"Trails and Eco-Tourism"*.

The registration to the Conference is open until 1st June.

More information on the website

<http://www.railtrails.org/traillink2005/>



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Declaration of Lille, 12th September 2000.