

European Greenways



Giulio Senes





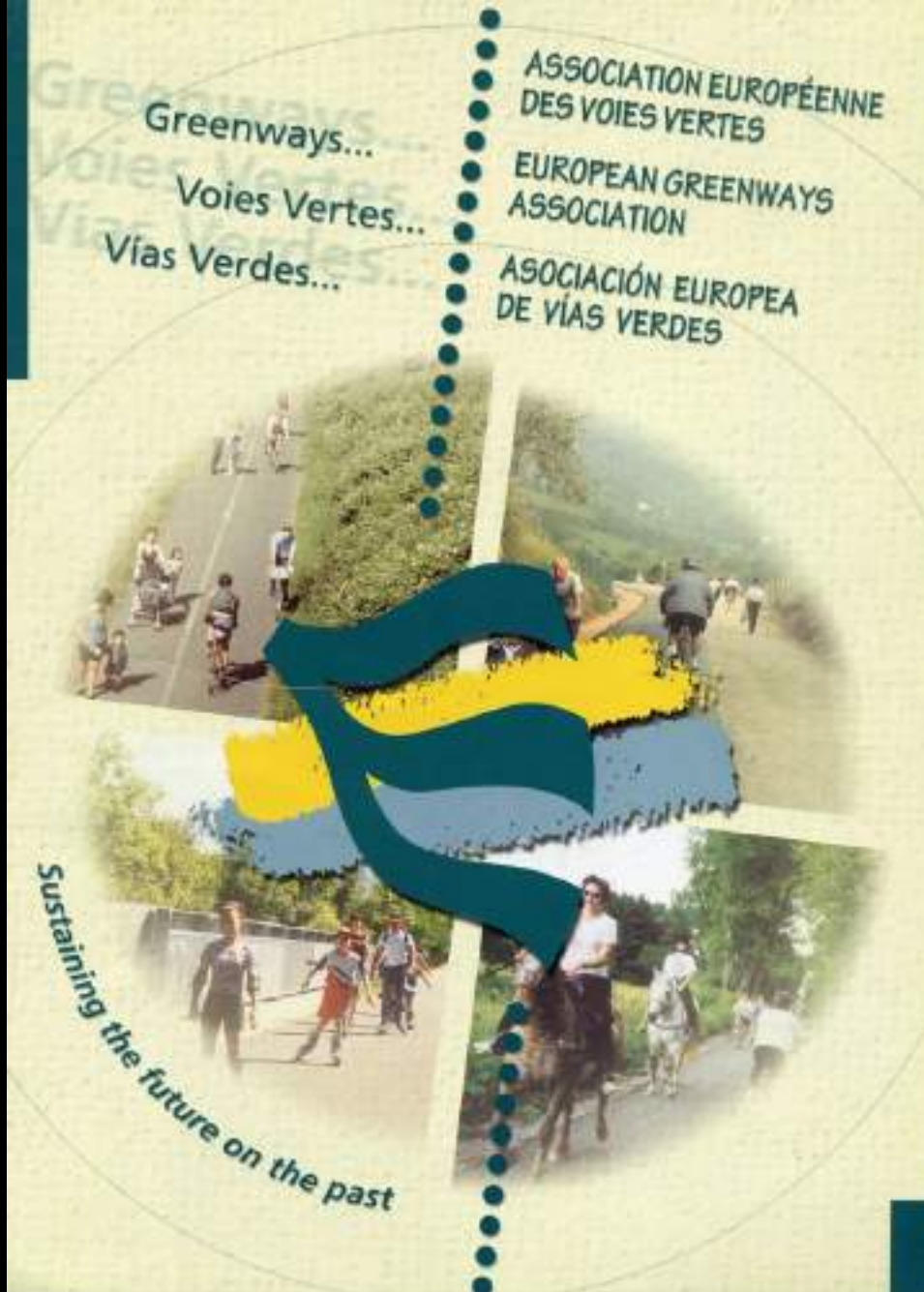
Greenways are communication **routes** reserved exclusively for **non-motorised journeys**, *developed in an integrated manner* which enhances both the environment and quality of life of the surrounding area.

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 European greenways Association (EGWA) was created in 1998 in 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.



EGWA Members



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

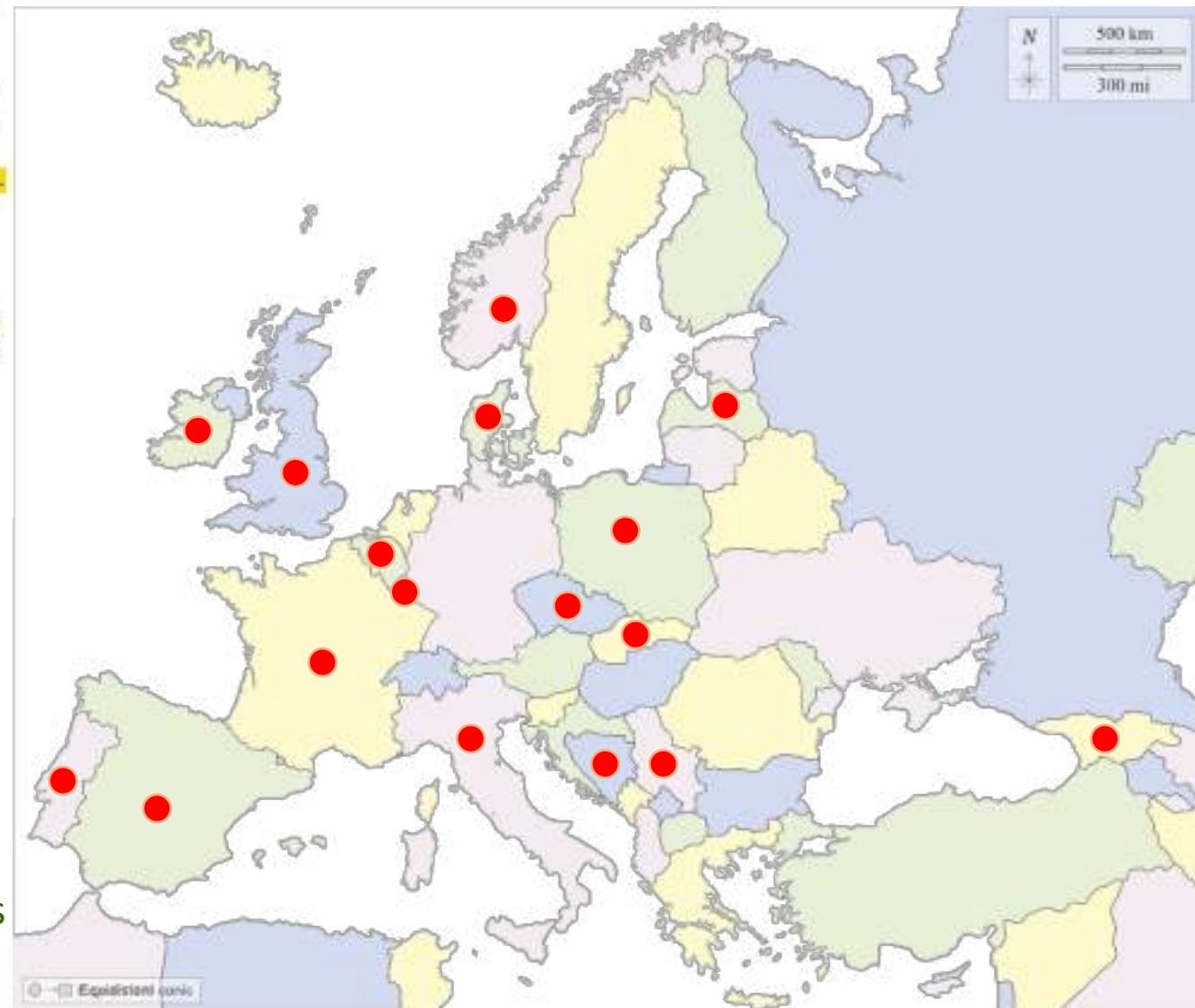


49 members from 17 countries + 4 honorary members.

3 Colleges:

- National Authorities
- Regional Authorities
- NGOs

The General Secretary and the operational headquarters are in Madrid, at the Spanish Railways Foundation.



EGWA Activities

- 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)
- Information exchange, networking, cooperation, advise, lobbying, (...)



EGWA Activities - European Greenways Award

European Greenways Association



Giulio Senes – European Greenways



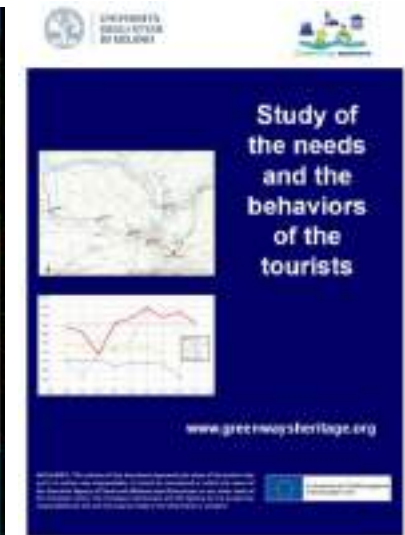
EGWA Activities

- 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)
- Information exchange, networking, cooperation, advise, lobbying, (...)



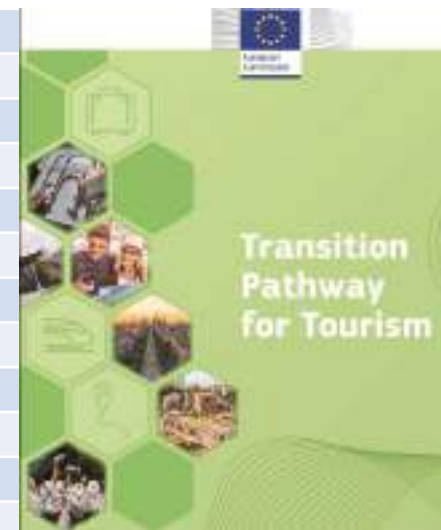
EGWA Activities

- 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)
- Information exchange, networking, cooperation, advise, **lobbying**, (...)



EGWA Activities - networking, cooperation, advise, lobbying

REGULATION AND PUBLIC GOVERNANCE	Topic 1	Fair measures for short term rentals (STR)
	Topic 2	Regulatory support for multimodal travelling
	Topic 3	Improving statistics and indicators for Tourism
	Topic 4	Comprehensive tourism strategies development or update
	Topic 5	Collaborative governance of tourism destinations
GREEN AND DIGITAL TRANSITION	Topic 6	Sustainable mobility
	Topic 7	Circularity of tourism services
	Topic 8	Green transition of tourism companies and SMEs
	Topic 9	Data-driven tourism services
	Topic 10	Improving the availability of online information on tourism offer
	Topic 11	Easily accessible best practice, peer learning and networking for SMEs
	Topic 12	Research and innovation projects and pilots on circular and climate friendly tourism
	Topic 13	Promoting the use of the PEF and OEF methodology and the development sectorial category rules for the tourism ecosystem
	Topic 14	Technical implementation for tourism data space
	Topic 15	Research & Innovation for digital tools and services in tourism
	Topic 16	Support for digitalization of tourism SMEs and destinations
RESILIENCE	Topic 17	Seamless cross-border travelling
	Topic 18	Coordinated management and updated information on travelling
	Topic 19	Awareness raising on skills needs for twin transition in tourism
	Topic 20	Awareness raising on changes in tourism demand and the opportunities of twin transition for tourism
	Topic 21	Educational organizations to engage in developing and renewing tourism education
	Topic 22	Pact for skills in tourism
	Topic 23	One-stop-shop for learning opportunities for tourism SMEs
	Topic 24	Fairness and equality in tourism jobs
	Topic 25	Enhancing accessible tourism services
	Topic 26	Tourism services for visitors and residents alike
FUNDING	Topic 27	Support visibility of funding opportunities for tourism actors



EGWA Activities - networking, cooperation, advise, lobbying



Active Tourism Coalition (20 members)



Recommendations for the European Sustainable Tourism Strategy

- Recognise Active Tourism as a cornerstone of sustainable tourism
- Establish Active Tourism as a flagship of Brand Europe
- Create integrated governance frameworks
- Prioritise Active Tourism in the next Multiannual Financial Framework (2028-2034)

To: European Commission, Brussels, Belgium

From: Active Tourism Coalition

Old infrastructures:

- abandoned railways
- canal towpaths
- disused military roads
- other disused infrastructures



Recovery and valorization of cultural heritage

Old infrastructures and buildings ...

- abandoned railways
- *canal towpaths*
- *other disused infrastructures*



Recovery and valorization of cultural heritage

Old infrastructures and buildings ...

- abandoned railways
- canal towpaths
- other disused infrastructures



... new social needs

- *Active and responsible tourism*
- *Healthy open-air leisure*
- *Sustainable mobility*
- *Sport and exercise for all*
- *Accessibility for all*

Recovery and valorization of cultural heritage

Old infrastructures recovered for new uses

Daily mobility ...



... Active tourism, healthy leisure, sport and exercise for everyone ... both in urban and rural areas



Greenways





The recovery of abandoned railway lines as greenways **takes advantage** of some specific characteristics of railway lines:

- **continuous** (unbroken) route with a (rail) seat **separated** from ordinary roads
- public **ownership** (or control) on (rail) seat
- low and regular **slope**
- **interconnection** with other public transport services

and allow

- the conservation and valorization of the historical and natural heritage
- the recovery and re-use of the buildings along the line



1993

- 7600 km of abandoned railways
- 954 stations
- 501 tunnels
- 1070 bridges



2024

- 3.500 km converted in 137 “Vías Verdes”
- 125 stations recovered as hotels, restaurants, bike rentals, etc.



1993

- 7600 km of abandoned railways
- 954 stations
- 501 tunnels
- 1070 bridges



2024

- 3.500 km converted in 137 "Vías Verdes"
- 125 stations recovered as hotels, restaurants, bike rentals, etc.

Portugal. Ecopistas National Program

The program ECOPISTAS started in 2001. It is promoted by REFER (the Railways Infrastructure Manager) for the recovering as greenways of 800 km of abandoned railways.

- 14 Ecopistas realized
- 220 km recovered
- 6 Ecopistas in planning



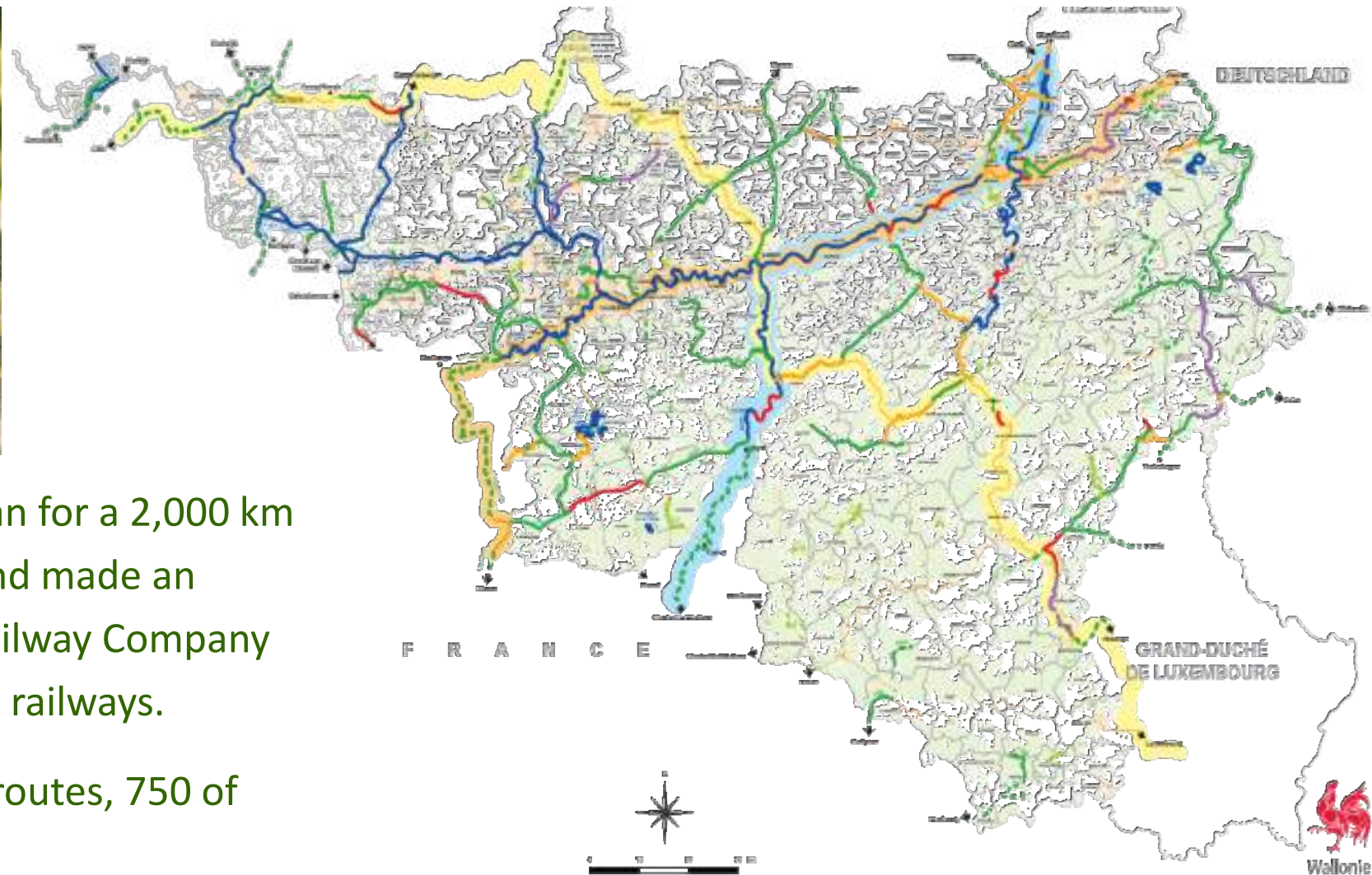
Portugal. Ecopistas National Program

The program ECOPISTAS started in 2001. It is promoted by REFER (the Railways Infrastructure Manager) for the recovering as greenways of 800 km of abandoned railways.

- 14 Ecopistas realized
- 220 km recovered
- 6 Ecopistas in planning



Wallonia (Belgium). RAVeL - Réseau Autonome de Voies Lentes



The government defined the plan for a 2,000 km soft mobility network (RAVeL) and made an agreement with the National Railway Company (SNCB) for using the abandoned railways.

In 2021, RAVeL has 1,400 km of routes, 750 of which are Vias Verdes.

Ireland – National Greenways Program

- Greenways as key infrastructures for sustainable tourism, mobility and active recreation in Ireland
- About €60 million allocated for about 40 greenways projects
- Failte Ireland, the national tourism agency, responsible for promotion and awareness rising of the greenway touristic product



Latvia – Green Railways

- Green Railways is a network of more than 500 km of cycling and walking routes developed on former railway lines in Latvia.



Italy

We have about 7,000 km of abandoned railways lines.



Italy

We have recovered as greenways only 1.000 km.

Some of the longest Vias Verdes in Italy

Railway section recovered as greenway	Km
1) Legnago – Treviso	81,2
2) Dobbiaco – Calalzo	64,9
3) Carnia – Tarvisio	54,5
4) Mirandola – Osteria Nuova	46,3
5) Ortona – Vasto	42,9
6) Spoleto – Nortosce	35,6
7) Lagonegro – Rotonda Viggianello	33,5
8) Voghera – Varzi	31,8
9) Bergamo – Piazza Brembana	31,5
10) Imperia – Ospedaletti	31,3



Greenways on abandoned railways

PAESE	NUMERO	CHILOMETRI
Austria	26	290
Belgio	86	1.050
Repubblica Ceca	14	90
Danimarca	51	700
Lettonia	1	150
Francia	185	3.400
Germania	731	4.900
Ungheria	8	70
Irlanda	10	512
Italia	75	1 000
Lussemburgo	8	150
Paesi Bassi	65	280
Norvegia	9	30
Polonia	18	300
Portogallo	14	380
Spagna	137	3 500
Svezia	133	2.200
Svizzera	12	40
Regno Unito	157	1.600
TOTALE	1 740	20 642



European Greenways



Giulio Senes

