

Common characteristics of greenways:

- They are **accessible** with slopes (either low or zero gradient) to accommodate all types of users, including mobility impaired people;
- They are **safe** due to their separation from roads;
- They have **continuity** as suitable solutions are found to overcome obstacles on the route;
- They are developed with **respect for the environment** and integrated into the landscape.



Greenways promote:

- **The preservation of cultural heritage:** former railways, waterways, works of art;
- **Sustainable mobility** for daily travel (to work, school, shops) and leisure journeys;
- **Sustainable tourism, rural development and local employment** creation;
- **Health** through active travel (helping to prevent respiratory and cardiovascular disease, obesity, etc);
- The creation of wide-ranging **services for users:** cycle maintenance and hire, information, accommodation etc;
- **Public participation** and **environmental awareness.**

Association Européenne des Voies Vertes European Greenways Association Asociación Europea de Vías Verdes

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



“Communication routes reserved exclusively for non-motorized 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, 2000).

Sustaining the future on the past

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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 nearly 50 different organizations from 14 European countries involved in the development of greenways.

Since its foundation in 1998, EGWA has...

- Contributed to the preservation of infrastructure such as disused railway corridors, tow paths and historic routes (Roman roads, pilgrims' paths, etc) with the aim of converting them into traffic-free routes and maintaining public access to the land;
- Encouraged the use of non-motorized transport, by drawing up inventories of potential routes and technical reports;
- Promoted and coordinated the exchange of expertise and information between different associations and national and local bodies involved in developing greenways throughout Europe;
- Advised local and national bodies on how to develop traffic-free routes;
- Collaborated with European bodies to support their policies on sustainable development, environmental issues, regional balance and employment.

EGWA initiatives

• European Greenways Award

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



• European projects

With the collaboration of many different partners, EGWA has coordinated the **Greenways4tour** project to promote sustainable tourism through the greenway network. In the framework of the European program Intelligent Energy, EGWA has participated in the **Naviki** project in order to promote cycling on greenways. With its participation in the **Greenways Product** project, EGWA promotes the creation of the European greenways tourism product.

EGWA has launched two European projects in the framework of the INTERREG program: **REVER AMNO** (Aire Métropolitaine Nord-Ouest, 1999-2001) and **REVER MED** (Méditerranée Occidentale, 2002-2004), aimed at the creation of a trans-national, traffic-free European Greenways Network (REseau Vert EuRopéen, REVER).

• European Greenways Observatory

An essential resource to discover thousands of kilometers of European traffic-free routes. It includes descriptive information about participating greenways, with maps, photos, videos, news and links to the relevant websites. You can search for routes by country, region or type of user in three languages (English, French and Spanish).

• Conferences

Since 2000, EGWA has organized five European greenways conferences. The first one culminated in the Lille Declaration which sets out the greenway concept. At the last conference (Madrid 2010) the Madrid Declaration was launched, updating EGWA's mission statement.

• Technical workshops and events

EGWA organizes technical workshops and many other events in collaboration with organizations working in areas such as tourism, heritage and health. The association co-operates with other agencies to promote greenways at congresses and international meetings.

• The European Greenways Day

During European Mobility Week, within the framework of this day, the association gathers and disseminates information on the activities organized by different greenways and promotes their use for daily mobility.



What does EGWA offer you?

- Dissemination of activities and projects among all its members as well as outside the association;
- Exchange of ideas and experiences;
- Participation in projects and European events;
- Promotion of the partners' greenways to an international audience.



Join EGWA!

Our members are very diverse, coming from the private, public and non-profit sectors. They include government administrations at national, regional and local level; greenway managers and promoters; public transport companies; environmental and cultural associations and foundations, as well as private companies.

Support EGWA

Please contact us for more information on the different partnership and sponsoring opportunities available.