



Greenways The European Brand





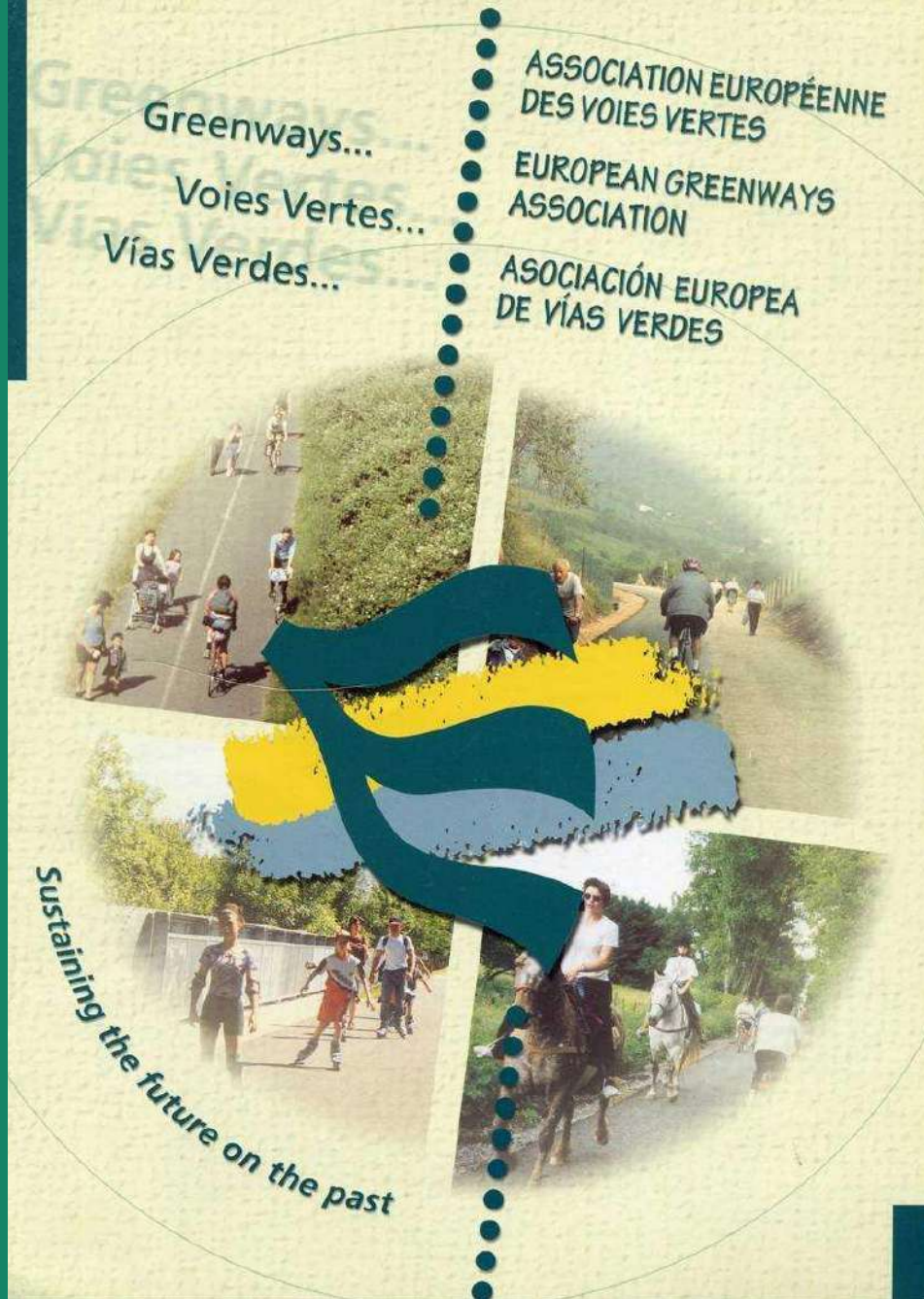
Greenways are communication routes reserved exclusively for non-motorised journeys, developed in an integrated manner which enhances both the environment and quality of life of the surrounding area.

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.

Lille Declaration, 12th September 2000

By reusing disused or “recycled” infrastructure—such as former railway lines, towpaths, and historic heritage trails, including industrial heritage—they respond to increasing social demands, including access to nature and culture, ecotourism and active tourism, healthy outdoor leisure, and sustainable mobility, while contributing to the fight against climate change.





The European Greenways Association (EGWA) was created in 1998 in Namur, Belgium.

Siège exécutif – General Secretary: Fundación de los Ferrocarriles Españoles, C/Santa Isabel, 44 · E – 28012 Madrid – Spain

Siège social: rue Van Opre, 97, 5100 Namur – Belgium





17 countries
50 Members, 4 Honorary Members



3 Colleges: National Authorities / Regional Authorities / NGOs

PORTUGAL: 3 Full Members - INFRAESTRUTURAS DE PORTUGAL IP PATRIMONIO - GESTÃO DE ECOPISTAS

/ COMUNIDADE INTERMUNICIPAL MINHO - LIMA / COMUNIDADE INTERMUNICIPAL ALENTEJO CENTRAL – CIMAC

4 Associate Members - MUNICÍPIO DE VILA POUCA DE AGUIAR / CÂMARA MUNICIPAL DE VALENÇA / MUNICIPIO DE MONTEMOR-O-NOVO

/ COMUNIDADE INTERMUNICIPAL VISEU DÃO LAFÕES

National Greenways Programs

30,000 kilometres of greenways in Europe, of which around 20,000 kilometres are developed on former railway lines, representing only about 20% of all disused railway lines.



Portugal - Ecopistas exemplary program

The program ECOPISTAS started in 2001. 500 kilometres of greenways currently in use, out of a total of 1,000 kilometres of abandoned railway lines.



EGWA Executive Committee (CODI)

EGWA CODI Meeting

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Chat

People 8

Raise

React

View

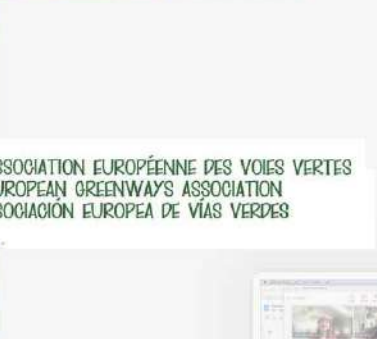
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EGWA Main Activities

- European Greenways Award
- Conferences, Webinars, Events
- Insights: Best Practices Guides, Publications, Interviews
- Research & Collection of data / European Greenways Observatory
- European projects (eg. Greenways4Tour, Greenways Product, Greenways Outdoor, Greenways4ALL, Greenways Heritage, OurWay)
- Information exchange, networking, cooperation, expertise
- EU Lobbying and Partnerships



Greenways

Enhancing heritage for walking and cycling, for locals and tourists alike.



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

European Greenways Award



GREENWAYS LIBRARY

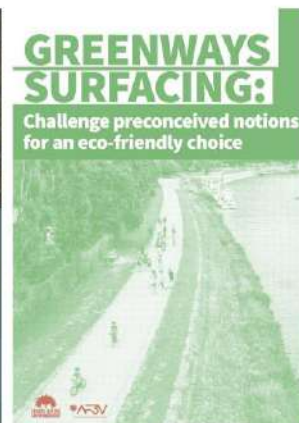
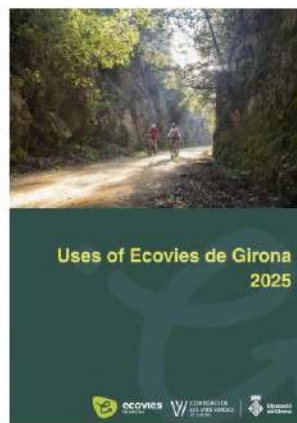
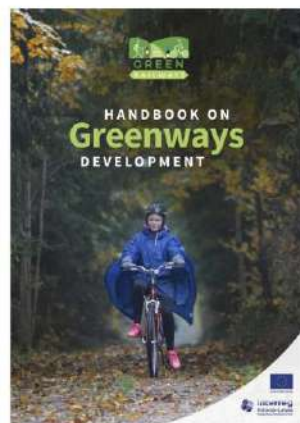


How to Make Accessible Greenways. Key recommendations for creating accessible greenways.

This brochure supports European greenway planners and managers in developing initiatives to improve accessibility, EGWA, 2017. [English](#) / [Spanish](#) / [Portuguese](#)

Best Practices Guide for the Promotion and Communication of European Greenways, Greenways4Tour, 2013.

Strategy and guidelines on how to recover and transform unused greenways and abandoned railways into actively used sport infrastructure, SIGWAY, EGWA 2024



EGWA Newsletter / April & May 2026

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

Greenways News



Foto: O'Via Verde de la Sierra



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



Towards Transition Pathway for Tourism and the European Sustainable Tourism Strategy

- Together for the EU Tourism T4T Expert Group - Subgroup: Green Transition
- Targeted consultation on the European Sustainable Tourism Strategy
- Youth Policy Dialogue with the European Commissioner for Sustainable Transport and Tourism, Apostolos Tzitzikostas



Targeted consultation on the European Sustainable Tourism Strategy



Others

In addition to the challenges listed in the consultation document, the following points are also relevant:

- *Adoption to climate change:* Climate adaptation measures, including nature-based solutions, can strengthen the resilience of tourist areas.
- *Safeguarding biodiversity and natural habitats:* It is essential to preserve the long-term attractiveness and ecological health of European destinations.
- *Better spatial planning:* Uncoordinated tourism growth can have negative effects (e.g., on biodiversity), which require better spatial planning.
- *Sustainable Food:* To tackle the negative effects of food consumption (e.g., food waste) and enhance its positive impact (incl. local value creation).
- *Promote safe and accessible transport by expanding cycling, walking, and wheeling infrastructure—especially greenways on disused railways and canal towpaths.* With only 20% of Europe's potential 150,000 km greenway network developed, further integration of these routes into transport systems will support decarbonization, reduce congestion, extend the tourism season, and diversify rural tourism.



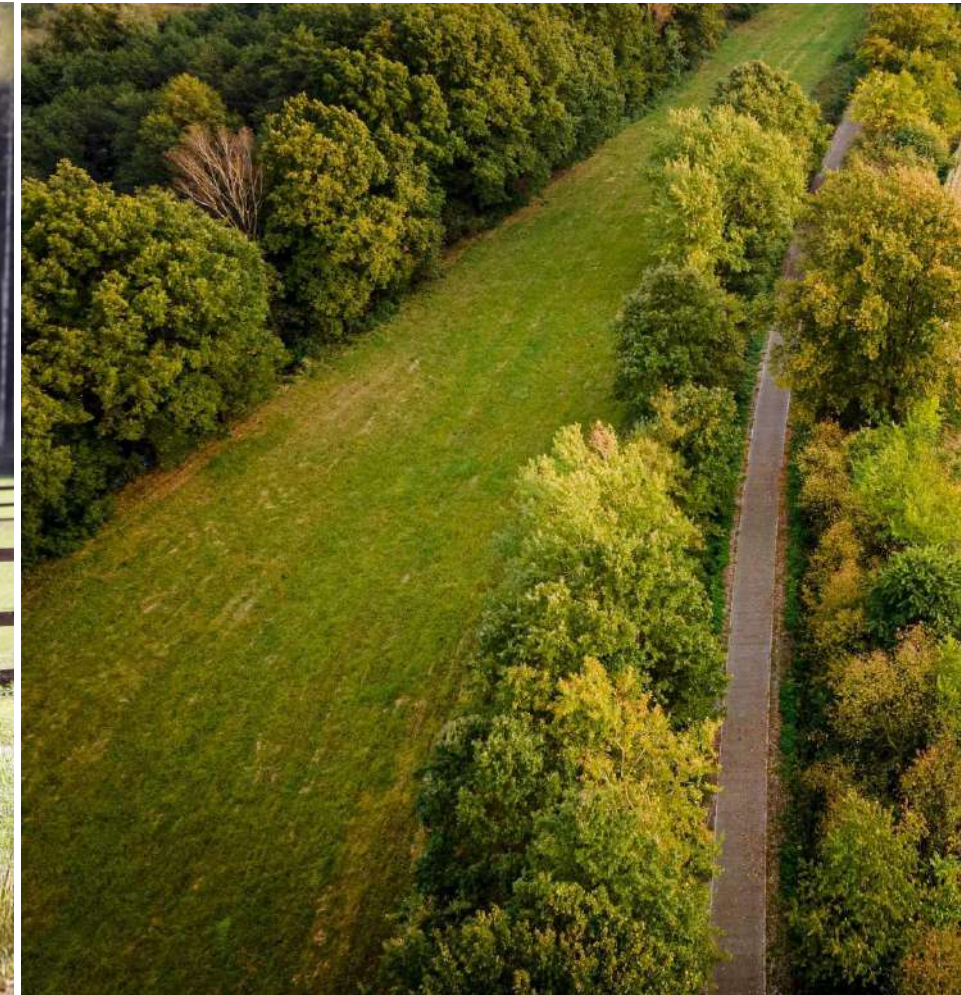
How Greenways contribute the European Sustainable Tourism Strategy?

Greenways provide green infrastructure for sustainable transport, travel, and mobility



How Greenways contribute the European Sustainable Tourism Strategy?

Greenways help address climate mitigation and environmental protection



How Greenways contribute the European Sustainable Tourism Strategy?

Greenways support green transition in tourism sector and support local entrepreneurship



How Greenways contribute the European Sustainable Tourism Strategy?

Greenways strengthen local communities and promote inclusion of women, youth, and disadvantaged groups



Greenways on European platforms

EUROPE
visiteurope.com

Europe's adventurous Greenways

by
European Greenways Association



The European Greenways Association (EGWA) was established in 1998 in Namur (Belgium) with the aim of promoting the creation and development of greenways across Europe. Today, it brings together nearly 50 organisations from 17 European countries involved in greenway development.

Facebook

Website

Imagine traveling across Europe slowly, off the beaten track, through peaceful nature and on hidden heritage trails. Whether by bike, foot, roller skates, horseback, or any other engine-free means, demotorized journeys invite you to rediscover Europe in a different way: by the *Greenways*. This network of green paths stretches across the continent, offering travelers the opportunity to enjoy nature, culture, and authentic local experiences while exploring Europe at a human pace.

Many of the routes follow paths transformed from disused railway lines and historic towpaths. Others trace former trade and cultural corridors often linked to Europe's rich industrial heritage, now reimagined as attractive, safe and accessible green routes that reconnect places and communities.

Greenways' response to the growing demand for experiences combining nature, culture and well-being is about 30,000 kilometers of trails to explore! From classic rail-to-trail routes such as the Spanish Vías Verdes; Portuguese Ecopistas; the slow paths of RAVeL in Wallonia (Belgium) and picturesque greenways in Luxembourg; Greenways following river corridors in Czechia and Poland; and the Green Railways in Latvia to the green trails crossing the Irish countryside, choose from dozens of ways to discover Europe's lesser-known heritage and landscapes. Quickly,

An official website of the European Union



EU Tourism Platform

Join ecosystem

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Home > Pledges > GREENWAYS & THE EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE TOURISM STRATEGY

PLEDGES | 25 February 22:22:13

GREENWAYS & THE EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE TOURISM STRATEGY



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Organisation types: International Organisations

Next progression check date: 04/04/2026

The document highlights the **European Greenways Association's** contribution to the European Sustainable Tourism Strategy.

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<https://www.aevv-egwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/EGWA-Statement-on-the-Euro...>



Publishing org

European Greenways Association

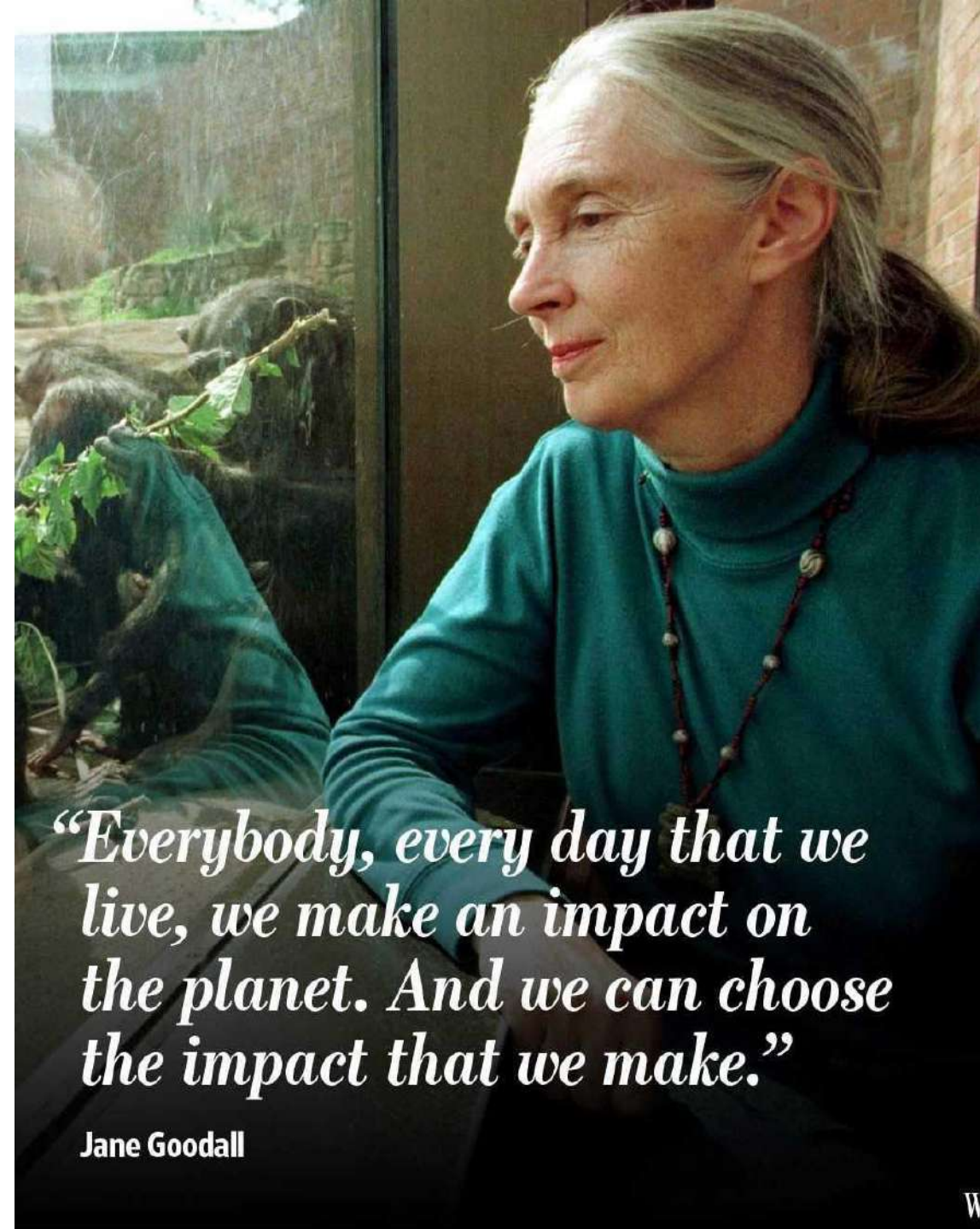
How can Greenways contribute to the European Sustainable Tourism Strategy

The document presents the contribution of the European Greenways Association to the European Sustainable Tourism Strategy, highlighting greenways as key infrastructure for sustainable transport, mobility, and inclusive tourism. Greenways reuse disused infrastructure such as former railways, towpaths, and heritage routes to support ecotourism, active travel, access to nature and culture, and climate change mitigation. They provide safe, accessible, and non-motorised routes for people of all ages and abilities, with uses ranging from walking and cycling to water-based and seasonal winter activities. As green corridors, greenways enhance environmental quality, strengthen local communities, connect rural and urban areas, and foster cooperation, including across borders.





European Greenways
a think tank and generator
of creative ideas, initiatives and data
for ensuring a sustainable future
with respect for the environment,
heritage and local communities.



“Everybody, every day that we live, we make an impact on the planet. And we can choose the impact that we make.”

Jane Goodall

Photos - archives of EGWA Members and Partners:

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Muito obrigada



