



Take the greenways through Europe

Take a look at a map of Europe. Borders, cities, roads and railways - lines established and drawn by rulers cover our continent. But now a distinctive new feature is also adding shape and form to the European countryside: The Greenways.

Disused railway corridors, tow paths and historic routes, such as Roman roads and pilgrim's paths, many of them having a wonderful potential as so-called greenways for hikers and bikers.

Already, hundreds of kilometres of greenways are running through European countries such as Spain, France, Belgium, Italy, Sweden, Czech Republic, Ireland, United Kingdom... Today, they are available for pedestrians, bikers, equestrians and mobility impaired people.

"The basic idea of the greenways is to improve communications and non-motorised itineraries in Europe, to promote healthier, safer and more balanced ways of life and transport, thereby cutting down on congestion and pollution of cities. But also to promote rural development, active tourism and local employment," says Jorge Gonzalez from the European Greenways Association, which is the promoting agency behind the establishment of green transport corridors also known as the greenways.

The European Greenways Association encourages the use of non-motorised transport, draws up inventories of potential routes and writes technical reports. The association also promotes and coordinates the exchange of expertise and information among its different members (associations, national and local bodies) and gives advice on how to develop non-motorised itineraries. The European Greenways Association collaborates with European bodies to support their policies in term of sustainable development, environment, regional balance and employment.

To read more about the European greenways and the European Greenways Association, please visit:

www.greenwaysforeurope.org

This newsflash is issued by the EECN which is DG Environment's support structure for European Environmental Communication Networks.

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