

European Green Belt Association

Programme of Work 2021-2022

FINAL Version: 25 November 2020



Bridging boundaries to protect Europe's longest green network

The European Green Belt connects 24 countries and includes a vast range of landscapes from forests to coastal habitats. The European Green Belt Initiative is a transboundary collaborative project which includes nearly 150 governmental and non-governmental organizations, enterprises and scientific institutions, with the shared goal to conserve biodiversity, improve connectivity, and support sustainable development along the former Iron Curtain.

The European Green Belt Association e.V. was established in 2014 during the 8th Pan-European Green Belt Conference in Slavonice (Czech Republic) as governance structure for the European Green Belt Initiative. Today, 31 member organisations (GOs and NGOs) are part of the EGBA. The EGBA mainly guides planning and implementation on pan-European level, coordinates activities and promotes and facilitates knowledge exchange and communication.

The **mission** of the European Green Belt Association e.V. is to ensure that the European Green Belt is efficiently protected and that its sustainable development is promoted by facilitating an on-going, coordinated transboundary co-operation at all levels and across all sectors of society.

The **vision** of the European Green Belt Association e.V. may be described as follows:

The European Green Belt, our shared natural heritage along the line of the former Iron Curtain, is to be conserved and restored to function as an ecological network connecting high-value natural and cultural landscapes, whilst respecting the economic, social and cultural needs of local communities.

This is the third Programme of Work (POW) of the EGBA. It covers the period of 2021 to 2022 and comprises the three fields of actions remain:

- A. Capacity building and knowledge exchange**
- B. Lobbying**
- C. Communication and awareness raising**

The most important tasks were selected for the Programme of Work for the European Green Belt Association for 2021-2022 during the General Assembly on 05 November 2020 by the members of the European Green Belt Association. The POW for the European Green Belt Association for 2021-2022 was finalized by the Board of the European Green Belt Association on 05 November 2020, including the identification of responsibilities, allocation of budgets for the chosen tasks, and setting of a time line for the implementation.

The chair of the European Green Belt Association covers administrative duties, like membership administration, communication in general as well as all further activities of the chair according to the statutes.

November 2020

Field of action A: CAPACITY BUILDING AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Objective 1: Knowledge exchange between members of the European Green Belt Initiative continues and is further promoted.

- 1.1 Implement the 11th Pan-European Green Belt Conference as an online conference in 2021
- 1.2 Implement one Regional Conference in each region

Objective 2: The need for research on the EGB is sufficiently elaborated and a cooperation with scientific experts/research institutions has been initiated by end of 2022.

- 2.1 Approach research institutions to elaborate possible research topics on the EGB
- 2.2. Invite scientists to 11th Pan-European conference and stimulate discussions to find possible research topics
- 2.3 Identify funding options for research projects

Field of action B: LOBBYING

Objective 3: The EGB and its outstanding values are actively promoted on EU-level by addressing relevant stakeholders.

- 3.1 Develop an official position paper on EGB and GI
- 3.2 Extent network to relevant institutions and decision makers on EU and national level
- 3.3 Organize at least one lobby event in Brussels

Field of action C: COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS RAISING

Objective 4: The members of the European Green Belt Initiative participate in awareness raising activities and share information on achievements and events.

- 4.1 Maintain and update EGB website
- 4.2. Publish the European Green Belt Newsletter on a regular basis (every 3 months)
- 4.3 Implement web-based seminars to exchange knowledge on different topics

Objective 5: The awareness of the European Green Belt is strengthened among the interested public and potential supporters (e.g. municipalities, donors, cooperation partners).

- 5.1 Promote the use of the EGB logo in PR material wherever possible to increase the visibility of the EGB
- 5.2 Build a task force to promote and test joint communication activities
- 5.3 Collect data on achievements by partners on the ground
- 5.4 Award Model municipalities of the EGB
- 5.5 Support European Green Belt Days events in EGB regions