



BESTbelt



With financial support of the European Union

Dear colleagues, dear members of the European Green Belt Initiative and Association, dear friends of the European Green Belt,

On behalf of the European Green Belt Association and the BESTbelt Project Team, we are pleased to invite you to the

BESTbelt Conference 2024
and
General Assembly
of the European Green Belt Association

14 – 18 October 2024
Jurmala, Latvia

It's time to re-connect! Many positive developments took place after the last BESTbelt Pan-European Conference in Ulcinj in 2022. This conference gives us the opportunity to meet, share our experiences, and discuss how we can strengthen the European Green Belt.

This year, we will share insights on the implementation of the 28 BESTbelt projects that were funded so far. We will further look into activities and case studies that have been conducted along the European Green Belt and that can be replicated in other regions. Beyond presentations and interactive working group sessions, there will also be opportunities for informal exchange and for networking.

Please find important organizational information on the conference and the venue in the following document. A preliminary agenda will be updated on the [European Green Belt website](#) soon.

IMPORTANT: Conference pre-registration and travel grant

To get a brief overview about the number of participants and ease our planning process, please indicate whether you plan to attend the BESTbelt Pan-European Conference 2024 via the [online pre-registration form](#) until 9 August 2024.



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In case you would like to apply for a travel grant, please also indicate this in the [online pre-registration form](#).

Travel grant

We have limited funds available for reimbursement of participants' travel costs. We will try to fund as many organisations as possible. Therefore, before applying for a travel grant, **please consider your needs and options for further resources/partial co-funding**. The more participants apply for a full travel grant, the less participants can be supported in total.

In general, funding will be available for transportation, accommodation and meals during the conference. Currently, we estimate to have on average € 200 available per person to financially contribute to your transportation to and from Jurmala (final amount of travel grant depends on number of participants requesting financial support).

Please kindly note that we can only cover accommodation between 14 – 17 October 2024 in double rooms. In addition, the night from 17 – 18 October 2024 can be covered for members of the European Green Belt Association attending the General Assembly. In case you want to stay in a single room, the cost difference needs to be covered by you. The cost difference between a single and a double room will be approx. 22,50 € per night.

To apply for a travel grant, please fill in all related questions in the [online pre-registration](#). You will receive our feedback if we can provide you with a travel grant and the total amount by 30 August 2024. Please only book tickets once you have received our confirmation on travel grants.

Conference registration

The registration for the conference will open after the pre-registration closes. We will inform you as soon as it opens. Registration will then be possible until **12 September 2024**. This final registration is mandatory for attending the conference.

Conference contributions

All concluded and ongoing BESTbelt projects will present their projects during the conference. The project leads will be contacted by us separately with more information. If you want to contribute a presentation or poster about your work along the European Green Belt or propose relevant topics apart from BESTbelt, please indicate this in the online pre-registration form.

Timeline for registration

Pre-registration including reimbursement options (Mandatory if you apply for travel grant)	Open from now until 9 August 2024
Feedback on travel grant applications (Please do not book any tickets before receiving our confirmation of your travel grant)	Until 30 August 2024
Registration (Final registration is mandatory to confirm your travel grant! The registration is binding!)	Open until 12 September 2024
Conference (incl. General Assembly and departure)	14 – 18 October 2024

Venue

The conference (conference hall & accommodation) will take place in the [Hotel Jurmala Spa](#) in Jurmala, Latvia. The city of Jurmala is situated at the coast of the Baltic Sea, about 25 km Northwest of Riga. The hotel offers conference rooms as well as accommodation in a calm surrounding and in walking distance to the sea.

Please take note that the arrival time at the conference venue should be latest 18:30 (15:30 for Board members of the European Green Belt Association e.V.) on 14 October 2024. The travel time from Riga Airport to Jurmala (also by public transport) is approx. 1,5 h, therefore latest arrival at the airport should be 17:00. We will inform you about potential shuttle options from Riga Airport to Jurmala.

Please forward this message to your colleagues who may be interested in attending the conference. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the organizing team at [bestbelt\(at\)europeangreenbelt.org](mailto:bestbelt(at)europeangreenbelt.org).

We look forward to meeting you in Jurmala this autumn!

Best regards,

The BESTbelt Project Team

(BUND Department Green Belt, BUND Mecklenburg-West Pomerania and EuroNatur)