

European Green Belt Association

Programme of Work 2023-2024

November 2022





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**
- D. Cooperation**

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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 Pan-European Green Belt Conference as face-to-face conference in 2024
- 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.

- 2.1 Establish a scientific steering committee

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 Implement a half-day event in Brussels to mainstream the EGB

Objective 4: The EGB and its outstanding values are actively promoted on national level by addressing relevant stakeholders.

- 4.1: Promote the outstanding natural and cultural heritage of the EGB

Field of action C: COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS RAISING

Objective 5: The members of the European Green Belt Initiative participate in awareness raising activities and share information on achievements and events.

- 5.1 Technical maintenance of the EGB website
- 5.2 Regular update of content of EGB website
- 5.3 Create a newsletter



Objective 6: The awareness of the European Green Belt is strengthened among the interested public and potential supporters (e.g. municipalities, donors, cooperation partners).

- 6.1 Promote the use of the EGB logo in PR material wherever possible to increase the visibility of the EGB
- 6.2 Design attractive map material of the EGB for communication purposes
- 6.3 Award Model municipalities of the EGB
- 6.4 Support European Green Belt Days events in EGB regions

Field of Action D: COOPERATION

Objective 7: Joint projects on pan-European level are stimulated.

- 7.1 Review of European Green Belt Association
- 7.2 Stimulate project initiatives on pan-European level
- 7.3 Explore options for securing and further developing approaches of BESTbelt