



9th Pan-European Green Belt Conference

31st October – 03rd November 2016 in Koli, Finland

Development of the programme of work 2017-2018 for the European Green Belt Association - Session 7 + 8

The sessions 7 and 8 during the 9th Pan-European Conference focus on the development of the programme of work 2017-2018 for the European Green Belt Association.

The aim of the parallel working sessions is to prepare a list of ideas with milestones and activities for the European Green Belt Association for the next two years. Based on these ideas the General Assembly will develop a final programme of work for the European Green Belt Association 2017-2018 (PoW EGBA 2017-2018) on 3rd November 2016.

Background European Green Belt Association

On the 24th September 2014 at the 8th Pan-European Green Belt Conference in Slavonice (Czech Republic), 23 governmental and non-governmental organisations from 14 countries established the **European Green Belt Association** to ensure transboundary coordination and exchange among the Green Belt community.

The **vision of the European Green Belt Association** 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.

The **mission of the European Green Belt Association** 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 European Green Belt Association has currently 29 member organisations from 16 countries (Status Sept. 2016).

Background 8th Pan-European Green Belt Conference 2014

During the last Pan-European Conference 2014 in Slavonice, the following eight priorities for collaboration for the European Green Belt Initiative were elaborated:

	Description
Cluster 1	Ecosystem services
Cluster 2	Linking and exchanging monitoring and research data Improve science / knowledge regarding connectivity Capacity Building and transfer of know-how Knowledge exchange (Science <--> Traditional knowledge)
Cluster 3	Political lobbying Influence EU policies
Cluster 4	Awareness raising Develop common sense of natural values (promotion of the Green Belt) CEPA
Cluster 5	Representative protected area network
Cluster 6	Collaboration in managing habitats
Cluster 7	Tourism guidance
Cluster 8	Alternative livelihoods Capacity Building and transfer of know-how Transboundary cooperation of local people

Fields of Action of the European Green Belt Association

Based on the results of the last Pan-European Conference in Slavonice, the following three Fields of Action for the European Green Belt Association were identified as focus for the development of the PoW EGBA 2017-2018:

No.	Field of Action EGBA	Description
1	Capacity Building and knowledge exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Linking and exchanging monitoring and research data- Improve science / knowledge regarding connectivity- Capacity Building and transfer of know-how- Knowledge exchange (Science <--> Traditional knowledge)- Capacity Building and transfer of know-how
2	(EU-)Lobbying	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Political lobbying- Influence EU policies- Influence national level- Green Infrastructure and TEN-G- Representative protected area network
3	Awareness raising and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Awareness raising- Develop common sense of natural values (promotion of the Green Belt)- CEPA (Communication, Education and Public Awareness)- Tourism

Session 8 during the 9th Pan-European Conference

During this session parallel working groups will be formed to the identified Fields of Action for the European Green Belt Association:

- Capacity Building
- Knowledge Exchange
- (EU-) Lobbying
- Awareness raising and education

Each working group will develop a list of ideas with milestones and activities for the specific field of action for the development of the PoW EGBA 2017-2018.

The results of the working groups are the base for the final development of the PoW EGBA 2017-2018 during the General Assembly on 3rd November 2016.