

GREEN BELT

Protection and Valorisation of the longest habitat system in Europe
INTERREG IIIB CADSES Neighbourhood Programme 2000 – 2006

Newsletter 08/2006

Editorial

Dear Project Partners,
Dear Friends of the Green Belt,

This is the first issue of the GREEN BELT newsletter which will continuously inform you about the important and latest news around the INTERREG project GREEN BELT.

The newsletter will be edited once a month by the project co-ordination staff in Weimar. In order to ensure that the news are up-to date, we will need the support of all the partners involved, especially for information on the regional level.

The newsletter will be subdivided into the four columns: Project News with reports about common activities and results of the project, a Project Calendar with dates and announcements of project events, Regional News with information from the partner regions and the Partner Profile of the month.

This first newsletter will look back on the kick-off meeting which took place in the beginning of June in Vachdorf, Germany. In addition, you will find the dates for project meetings planned in August and September. Starting from the next edition, we are going to introduce one project partner per newsletter – with detailed information on the institution, the persons involved and their specific role in the GREEN BELT project.

The newsletter serves to inform everybody interested in our project. If you know colleagues or institutions who would like to receive this newsletter regularly, please send an Email to greenbelt@salve-consult.de.

You are welcome to comment on this newsletter as well as to support the work of the editorial staff by sending your links, information or articles on our subject.

Uta Tannhäuser

Project Approval

On 10 May 2006, the Joint Technical Secretariat informed the Lead Partner that the Steering Committee has approved the project application 5D107 GREEN BELT for co-financing by the Community Initiative

INTERREG IIIB CADSES Neighbourhood Programme. For the first time, the call for project proposals also invited neighbouring countries to join the CADSES projects.

We are very happy to have partners from Croatia and Bulgaria in our project - in addition to the ERDF partners who come from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Austria, Slovenia and Germany.

The project started on 1 April 2006 and will run for 26 months until 31 May 2008.

Kick-off Meeting

The GREEN BELT kick-off meeting took place from 6 to 9 June 2006 in Vachdorf, Germany. The vast majority of project partners could participate in the meeting, which was both a time of hard work and of warm and fruitful personal encounters in a very amicable atmosphere.

The project meeting started on 7 June with a day of intensive work on the project's outlines: After a short introduction of each partner, the central work packages of the project were discussed. After the discussion of work package 3 "Common presentation of the Green Belt, tourist marketing and education projects", two work groups were founded to discuss the work package 2 "Sensitive traffic development along the Green Belt" and work package 1 "Gap analysis of the Green Belt". In the afternoon, the meeting dealt with procedural questions of the project (financial management, project co-ordination, internal project communication etc.). The day was closed by a very interesting guided tour through the Eco Centre Vachdorf.

From 8 June on, the project meeting was linked to the Regional Planners' Conference of Thuringia in Meiningen where stakeholders from the region of Thuringia came together to discuss the activities and perspectives of the Green Belt topic in Thuringia and beyond. In the afternoon, the participants had the occasion to inform on the topic during a field trip to Point Alpha in Geisa – a place on the former German-German border.

On 9 June, the project partners contributed with presentations on the situation on the Green Belt in their countries which opened the

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minds of the meeting's participants for the international dimension of the Green Belt topic.



*The participants of the kick-off meeting during the field trip to the Green Belt (Point Alpha)
Photo: Stanka Desnik*

The GREEN BELT project

This first Newsletter should serve to introduce the project as a whole to give everybody interested a first impression what the project is all about and what is planned during the next two years.

Acronym (short project title):
GREEN BELT

Full Project name:
Protection and valorization of the longest habitat system in Europe

Priority 3 - Promotion and management of landscape, natural and cultural heritage

Measure 3.2 - Protecting and developing natural heritage

Budget:
ERDF 734.460,50 €
Total Budget 1.203.979,00 €

Project duration:
01/04/2006 to 31/05/2008

Project Partners:

Association for Rural Development in Thuringia,
Erfurt, DE (Lead Partner)

BUND - Friends of the Earth Germany, Erfurt, DE

University of Applied Science Erfurt, DE

Institute of Systems Biology and Ecology, Academy

of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Ceske
Budejovice, CZ

Oziveni-Bohemian Greenways, Praha, CZ

Institute for Nature Conservation Austria in
cooperation with the Austrian League for Nature
Conservation, Graz, AT

Austrian League for Nature Conservation
Burgenland, Eisenstadt, AT

Slovak Environmental Agency, Banská Bystrica,
SK

Regional Environmental Centre for Central and
Eastern Europe, Bratislava, SK

Hungarian Cyclist Club, Budapest, HU

Castanea - Society for Environmental Protection,
Sopron, HU

Logarska dolina d.o.o., Solcava, SI

Javni Zavod Krajinski Park Goricko, Grad, SI

Thuringian Ministry of Agriculture, Nature
Conservation and Environment, Erfurt, DE

Hnutí Duha, Friends of the Earth Czech Republic,
Brno, CZ

ETP Foundation – Sustainable Development
Projects, Sofia, BG

State Institute for Nature Protection, Zagreb, HR

Short description:

Borders separate, nature unites: Along the former "Iron Curtain", the longest European system of habitats has been preserved due to decades of inaccessibility. However, the location within border areas did not only help to protect nature, but also constrained the economic development of the adjacent regions. GREEN BELT aims at transforming the former "death belt" into a green "life line" by focusing on the use of the natural potential of the project region to foster a sustainable economic development of the area. GREEN BELT will implement pilot studies with solution-oriented approaches in the fields of traffic, tourism, regional marketing and education. The project also aims at improving the communication between the people once separated and at raising the awareness that nature protection can be compatible with sustainable regional development. The vision of GREEN BELT is a pan-European Green Belt network from the Arctic to the Black Sea which is intended to become a model for other transnational networks in the field of

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protection of the natural heritage as a cornerstone of regional, national and European identity. By aiming at the long-term protection of this unique natural heritage, GREEN BELT will contribute to the implementation of NATURA 2000 and EU spatial policies such as the European Spatial Development Protocol (ESDP).

Main Projects Results:

- Contribution to a sustainable trans-national Green Belt network working for the protection and valorization of the longest habitat system in Europe,
- Feasibility studies on the topics "Gap analysis of the Green Belt", "Sensitive traffic development", "Involvement of the local population into Green Belt tourism",
- New common corporate design of the Green Belt initiative: website, printed material and mobile exhibition in eight languages
- Development of transnational tourism marketing strategies, guidelines for local branding, establishment of a network of providers of eco-tourism services
- Green Belt workshops for stakeholders on the local, regional and national level
- Pilot projects: Signposting of thematic cycle trails and an adventure hiking-trail in selected areas along the Green Belt

Project calendar

As agreed during the kick-off meeting, following work groups will meet in August and September to continue the work on the individual work packages.

24 to 25 August 2006

Meeting of work group 3 "PR initiative – common presentation of the Green Belt" in Grad, SI

Information/contact:

k.kowol@bund-th.net

14 to 15 September 2006

Meeting of work group 1 "Gap analysis of the Green Belt" in Leopoldschlag, AT

Information/contact:

melanie.kreutz@bund-naturschutz.de

22 to 23 September 2006

Meeting of work group 2 "Sensitive traffic development" in Sopron, HU

Information/contact:

joern.flaig@fh-erfurt.de

Tips and Links

Interreg IIIB CADSES Information

www.cadses.net

Project Management Handbook

http://www.cadses.net/media/files/pmh_compilte.pdf

National CADSES Contact Points

<http://www.cadses.net/en/contacts/cadsestccps.html>

Contracting Authorities for non-member-state partners

http://www.cadses.net/en/contacts/CARDSPHARETACIS_Contracting_Authoriti.html

