

TransParcNet Meeting
Šumava National Park, 09.-11. June 2015



European Green Belt Initiative

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Deutschland





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The former Iron Curtain



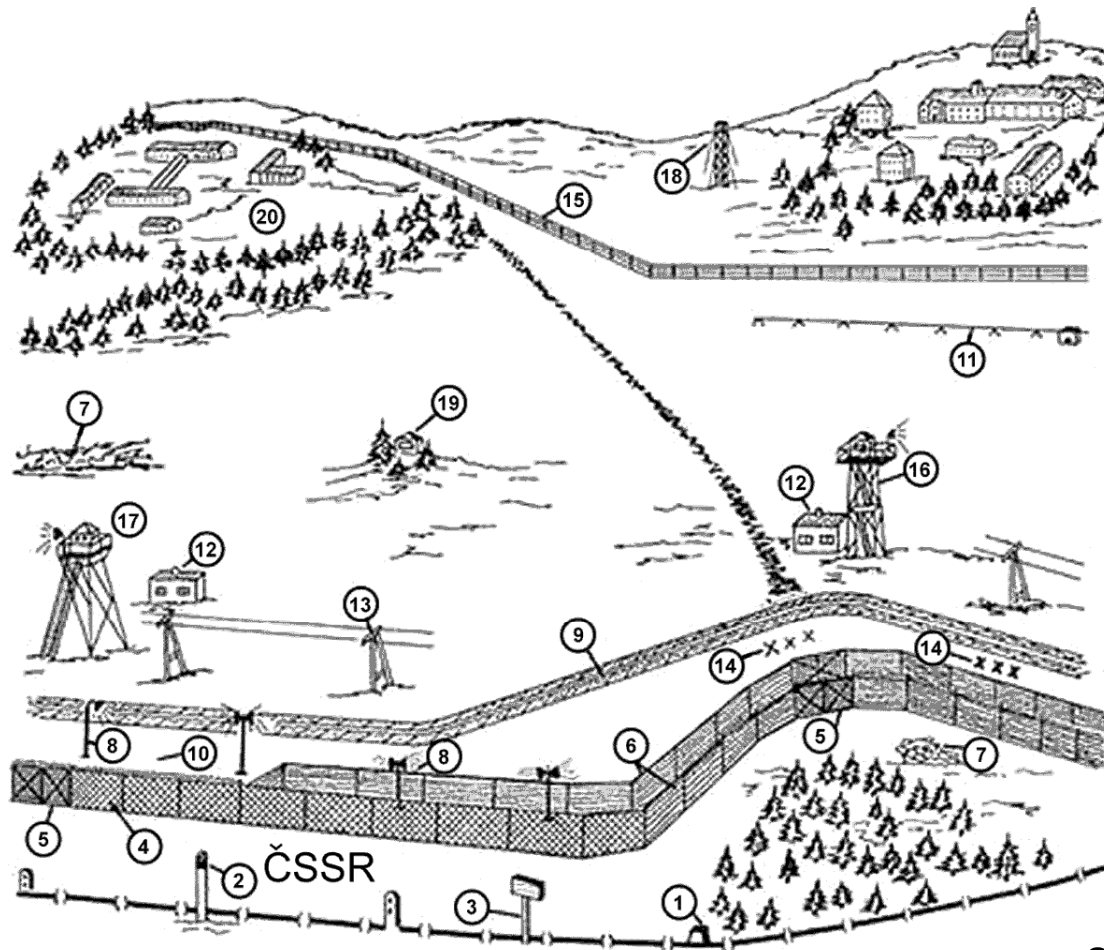
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Source: German Federal Border Guard (BGS)



Czechoslovakian border fortification



- 1 Border demarcation with border stones
- 2 Border pole
- 3 Border panel
- 4 Single-row barbed wire or metal fence
- 5 Fence Gate
- 6 Two-rowed barbed wire
- 7 Trip wire flares
- 8 Illuminated area
- 9 Border patrol way
- 10 Ploughed strip
- 11 Dog pounds
- 12 Watch tower hut
- 13 Border communication network
- 14 Additional obstacles
- 15 Signal fence
- 16 Wooden watch tower
- 17 Iron watch tower
- 18 Air space control tower
- 19 Bunker
- 20 Border police camp



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Breakdown of the Iron Curtain





Point of Depart: Regional Activities and Initiatives



1970s:

- Transboundary nature conservation cooperation between Finland and the Soviet Union on GO-level
- First surveys of endangered birds along the inner-German border by BUND (NGO)

1989:

- BUND initiates the Green Belt Germany

Early 1990ies:

- First activities in the Balkan region by EuroNatur (NGO)
- Inventory project on border forests along the Fennoscandian Green Belt



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First Idea of a Green Belt through Europe

July 2002:
Opening Ceremony of the WestEastern Gateway

- Idea of a Green Belt through Europe

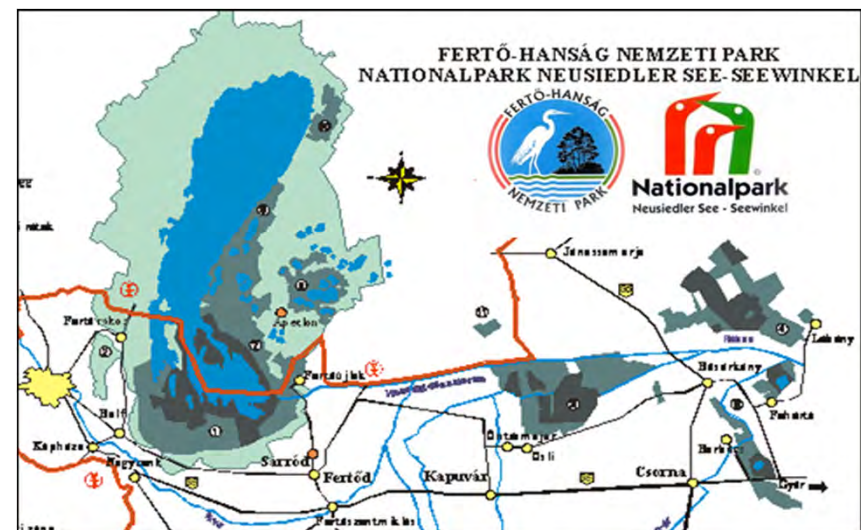
2003:

1st conference "Perspectives of the Green Belt" (Bonn, Germany)

2004:

2nd International Conference on the European Green Belt (Sarród, Hungary)

- First coordination structure





Natural Diversity



- 12.500 km long
- **Traverses**
 - **8 European biogeographic regions**
- **Comprises**
 - Wilderness areas
 - Cultural landscapes
 - Water ecosystems and coasts
 - Large woodlands
 - Threatened species
- **Contributes to the diversity of European nature**
- **Contributes to the pan-European Ecological Network**
- **Outstanding European memorial landscape combining history and nature**





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Cultural Diversity



12.500 km

24 countries



► The European Green Belt is a territorial challenge with geo-political and cultural relevancies



GIS-Mapping Project European Green Belt

„Search Corridor“: 25 km buffer on either side of the former „Iron Curtain“ in central and south Europe and of 50 km in northern Europe.

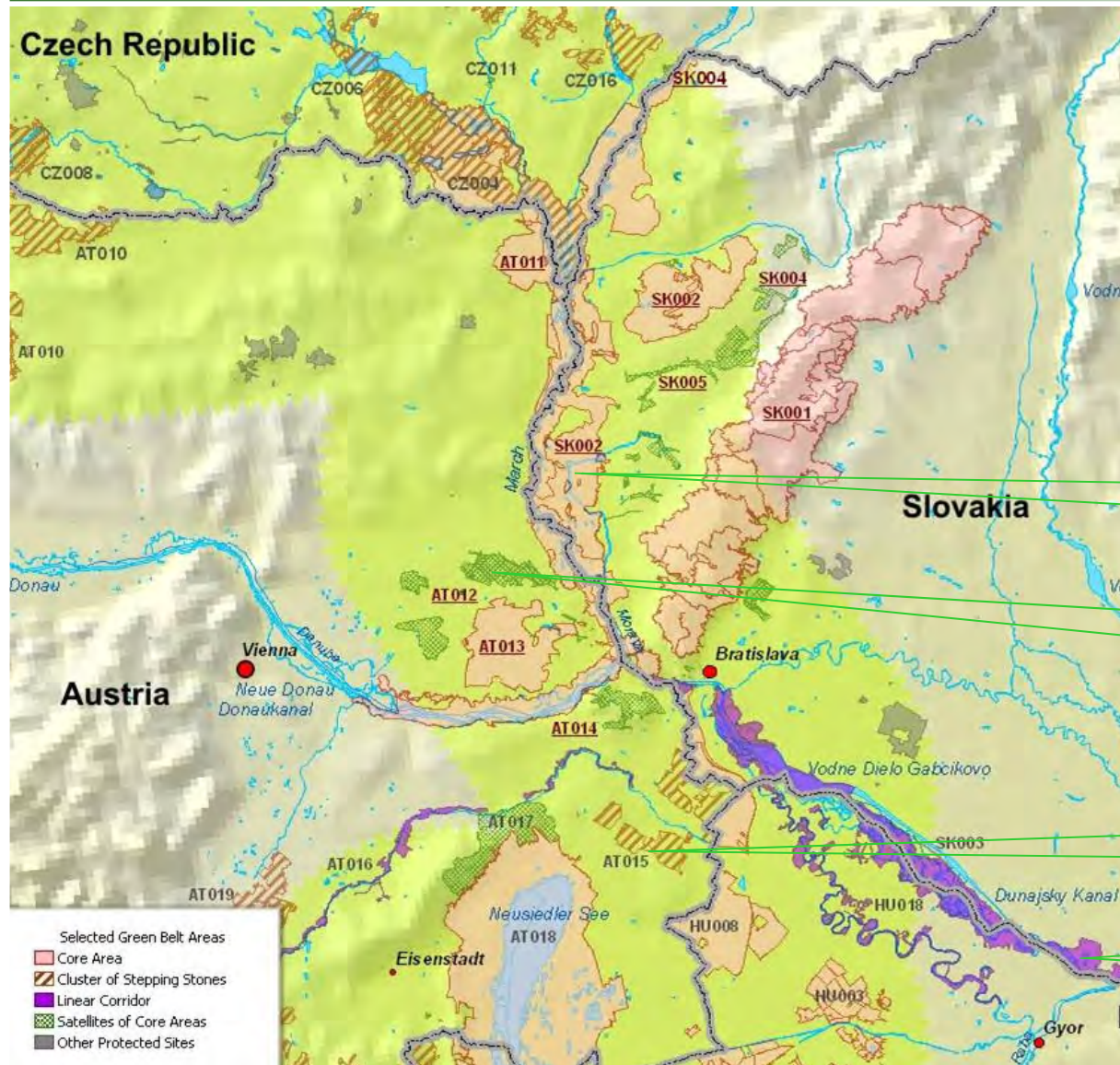
4 types of
European Green
Belt areas:

Core areas

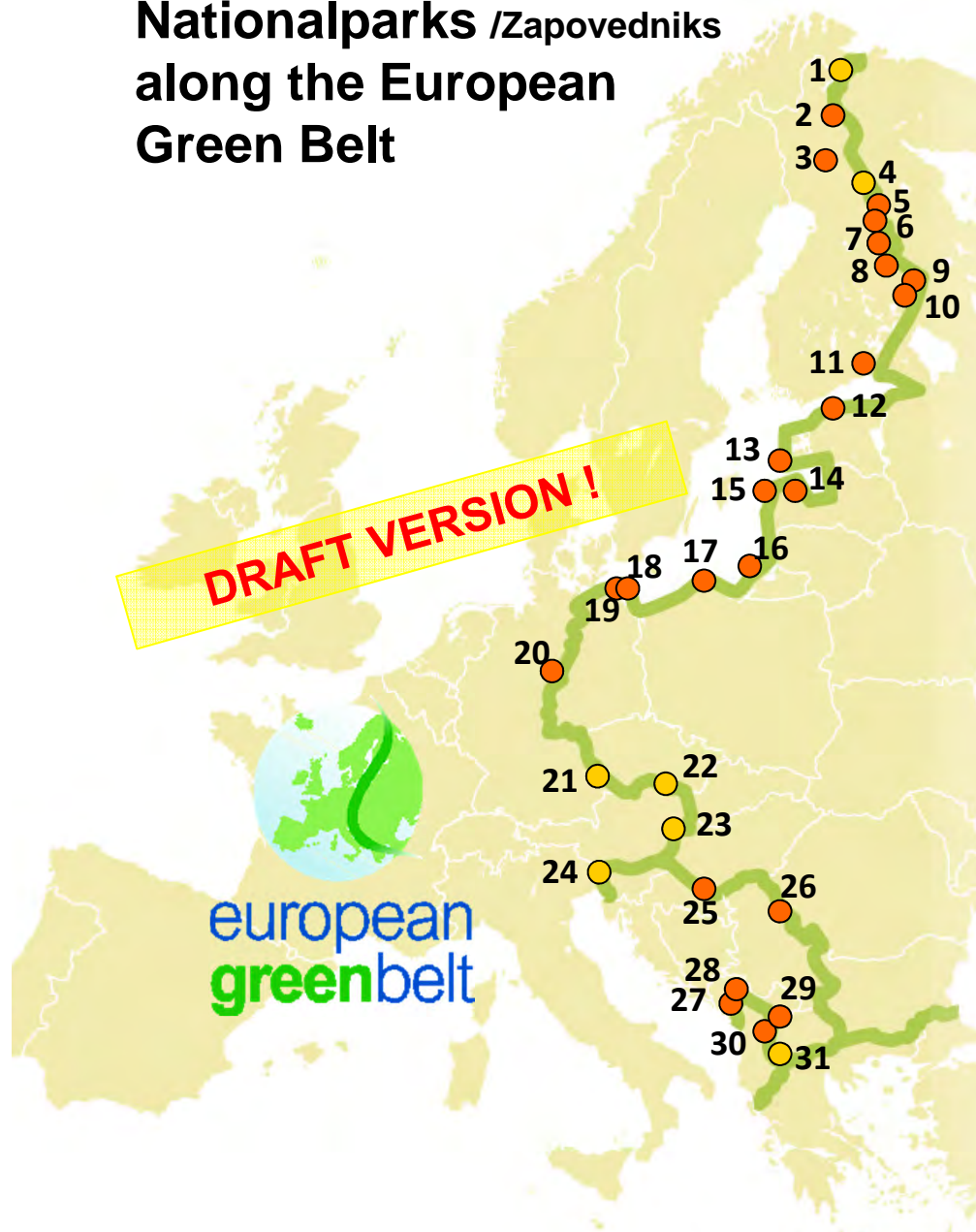
Satellites of core areas

Cluster of
stepping stones

Linear corridors



Nationalparks /Zapovedniks along the European Green Belt



- 1 **a/b/c** Pasvik Inari Trilateral Park: Øvre-Pasvik (NOR)/Zapovednik Pasvik (RUS)/Vätsäri (FIN)
- 2 Urho-Kekkonen (FIN)
- 3 Riisitunturi (FIN)
- 4 **a/b** Oulanka (FIN)/Paanajärvi (RUS)
- 5 Kalevala (RUS)
- 6 Zapovednik Kostomukshskiy (RUS)
- 7 Hiidenportti (FIN)
- 8 Koli (FIN)
- 9 Patvinsuo (FIN)
- 10 Petkeljärvi (FIN)
- 11 Valkmusa (FIN)
- 12 Laheema (EST)
- 13 Matsalu (EST)
- 14 Kemeru (LV)
- 15 Slitere (LV)
- 16 **a/b** Kuřiu Nerija (LT)/Kurschskaja Kossa (RUS)
- 17 Slowinski (PL)
- 18 Jasmund (D)
- 19 Vorpommersche Boddenlandschaft (D)
- 20 Harz (D)
- 21 **a/b** Šumava (CZ)/Bayerischer Wald (D)
- 22 **a/b** Thayatal (A)/Podyjí (CZ)
- 23 **a/b** Neusiedler See (A)/Fertő Hanság (H)
- 24 **a/b** Triglav (SLO)/Prealpi Giulie (IT)
- 25 Donau-Drau (H)
- 26 Golubac (SRB)
- 27 Skutari (MNE)
- 28 Prokletije (MNE)
- 29 Mavrovo (MK)
- 30 Shebenik-Jablanica (AL)
- 31 **a/b/c/d** Galicia (MK)/Prespa (AL)/Pelister (MK)/Prespa (GR)



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The Green Belt between the “Pearls”



© Klaus Leidorf

Multinational projects

INTERREG projects „Green Belt“ and “Greenet”

(www.greenet-project.eu) in Central European Green Belt
18 partners from 8 countries, 22 partners from 6 countries



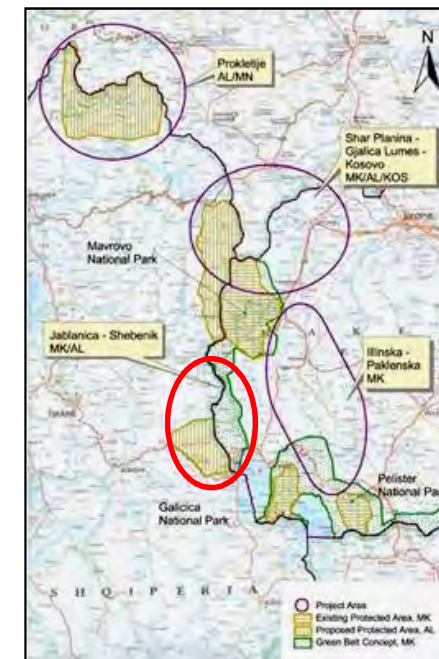
INTERREG project „baltic green belt“

(www.balticgreenbelt.net) in Baltic Green Belt

22 partners from 7 countries

Transboundary projects

- Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme
- Shebenik-Jablanica National Park





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Achievements / Positive Developments – e.g.



- Shebenik-Jablanica National Park was established in Albania in 2008, an adjacent national park in Macedonia is still in preparation



- Joint statement for the protection of the Prespa Park (signed in 2000) was confirmed by the prime ministers in the trilateral area of Albania, Greece and Macedonia in 2009



- Memorandum of Understanding for working jointly towards the conservation of the Fennoscandian Green Belt was signed by the Ministers for Environment of Finland, Norway and Russia in 2010



- Designation of a 631.000 ha large biosphere reserve along the Drava river in the transboundary area of Hungary and Croatia in 2012



- EU-Commission named European Green Belt Initiative as an example for an EU-level Green Infrastructure project in May 2013



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Joint Declaration of Intent



- **May 2013, Berlin:**
Celebration act “10 years European Green Belt Initiative” at the German Ministry for Environment



Joint Declaration of Intent

- Currently 18 states (MoE) signed the Joint Declaration of Intent on working together on the European Green Belt
- 2 countries sent letters of support

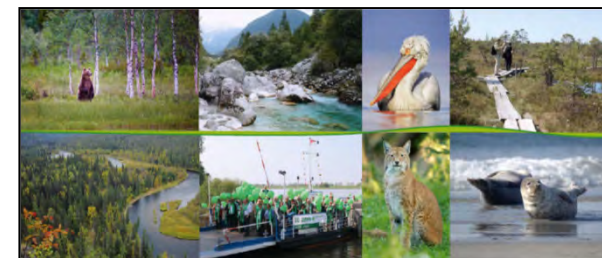
➔ **Political support for the Initiative!**



8th Pan-European Green Belt Conference

23-26 September 2014
Slavonice (Czech Republic),
Centre for the Future

- 107 participants from 23 European Green Belt countries as well as Canada and the U.S. from GO and NGO
- Establishment of the European Green Belt Association e.V.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the European Green Belt Initiative and the European Cyclist Federation (ECF)
- New comprehensive brochure about the European Green Belt presented



The European Green Belt Initiative -
10 years of challenges, experiences and achievements

European Green Belt Association e.V.

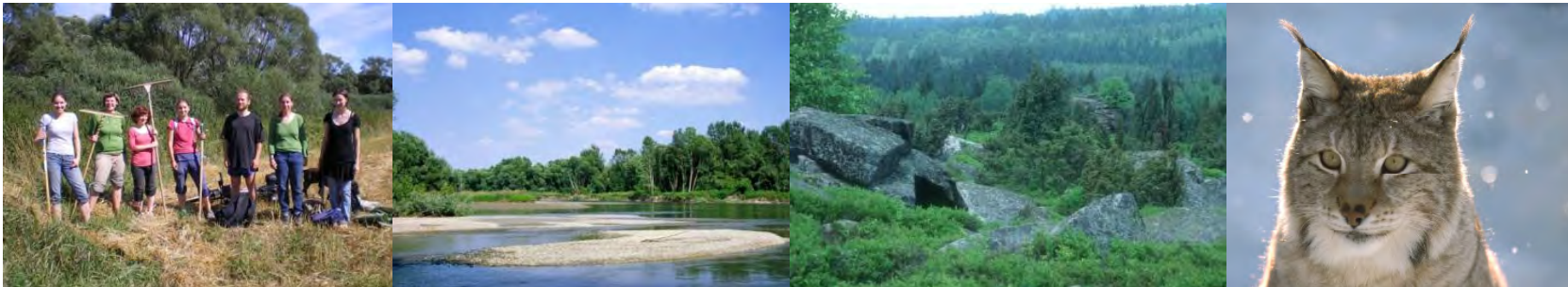
- Established by **23 governmental and non-governmental organizations** (founding members) **from 14 countries**
- **Elected board** consist of: EuroNatur (chair), BUND (deputy chair), Federal Agency for Nature Conservation Germany (BfN), Ministry of Environment Finland, Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation, Environmental Partnership Czech Republic and IUCN





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Thank you for your attention!



www.europeangreenbelt.org

Pictures: Peltomäki (2), Schneider-Jacoby, Körner, Macedonian Ecological Society, Leidorf, Schlumprecht, Mohl, Limberger (2), BUND Project Office (2)