European Green Belt Initiative

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The former Iron Curtain

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
20. Border police camp

Source: US Army Center of Military History
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
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 (Sarrod, 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
The European Green Belt is a territorial challenge with geo-political and cultural relevancies.
4 types of European Green Belt areas:

- Core areas
- Satellites of core areas
- Cluster of stepping stones
- Linear corridors

„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.
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 Kemeri (LV)
15 Slitere (LV)
16 a/b Kušų 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”
Multinational projects
INTERREG projects „Green Belt“ and “Greennet” (www.greennet-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
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
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!
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
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

www.europeangreenbelt.org/association

Founding members of the European Green Belt Association e.V.
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)