



EuroVelo

Annual Report

2019

Provisional EuroVelo General Meeting 2020

European Cyclists' Federation



www.eurovelo.com



Introduction

With the launch of the new websites, the extension of the EuroVelo network and, for the first time, the inclusion of an entire EuroVelo route in the Council of Europe's Cultural Routes, 2019 was a successful year for EuroVelo.

IN A NUTSHELL



86,000

Kilometres of EuroVelo routes in Europe



1,353,098

Visitors to the EuroVelo web platform



23

National EuroVelo Coordination Centres and Coordinators (NECC/Cs)



EuroVelo 15

Most visited route on www.EuroVelo.com



42

Countries across which the EuroVelo network extends



France

Most visited country on www.EuroVelo.com

Network extension, events, recognition and new website

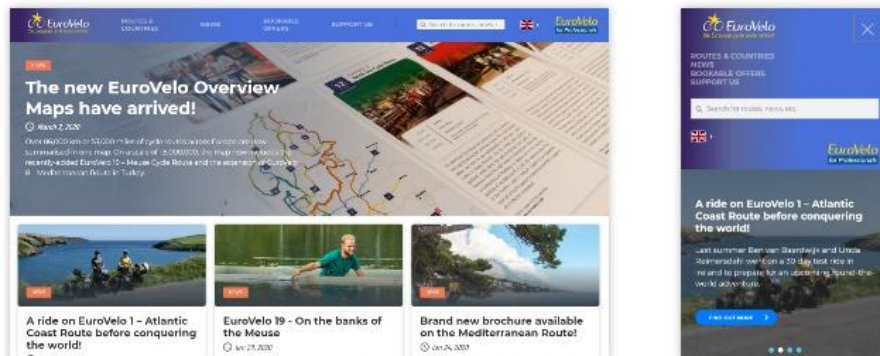
On 8 March, [EuroVelo 19 – Meuse Cycle Route](#), a 1050-km route crossing 3 countries, was launched at ITB Berlin's **Cycling Tourism Day**, organised by the EuroVelo Team and the Allgemeiner Deutscher Fahrrad-Club e.V. (ADFC). More information can be found in [this article](#).

It was followed towards the end of the year by the addition of a 500-km coastal cycle route in Izmir, Turkey, connecting the UNESCO World Heritage ancient cities of Pergamon and Ephesus, to [EuroVelo 8 – Mediterranean Route](#). A smaller extension of the EuroVelo network happened in May, as the 105-km extension of [EuroVelo 10 – Baltic Sea Cycle Route](#) in the Danish island of Bornholm was approved. Still in May, [EuroVelo 13 – Iron Curtain Trail](#) joined the list of 38 **Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe**, which was great recognition for this historically charged route.

On 18-19 March, the ECF offered the annual two-day **training session for future EuroVelo route inspectors**, based on the **European Certification Standard (ECS)** for long-distance cycle routes. The 2019 EuroVelo Route Inspectors Training took place in Brussels. Another important event was of course the **2019 EuroVelo Annual General Meeting** that was organised on 24th June in Dublin, a day before the kick-off of Velo-city 2019.

But the main milestone of the year was the modernisation of www.EuroVelo.com that now includes interactive maps, allowing to zoom in and out on route, country and stage pages and to discover in a dynamic way the points of interest to visit along the EuroVelo network. The new website was launched at

Velo-city 2019 in the [Cycling Tourism Plenary](#) that gave centre stage to EuroVelo on the third day of the Conference. The professional website www.pro.EuroVelo.com was integrated into the same web platform in October, with an updated look and structure that better fit its contents.



Towards the end of the year, the new EuroVelo smartphone application was launched, available on both [Android](#) and [iOS](#). This app, developed in collaboration with Cartographia Kft., provides overview information (country and stages) and interactive maps for six developed EuroVelo routes: EuroVelo 1 – Atlantic Coast Route, EuroVelo 3 – Pilgrims Route, EuroVelo 5 – Via Romea (Francigena), EuroVelo 8 – Mediterranean Route, EuroVelo 10 – Baltic Sea Cycle Route and EuroVelo 13 – Iron Curtain Trail. The app also includes a gamification system whereby users can 'check in' to numerous POIs that are linked to the theme of each route and share how much of the route they have completed with friends and family.



The collection of all updated GPS tracks of the routes, with the help of the network of National EuroVelo Coordination Centres and Coordinators, led to a new calculation of the entire length of the EuroVelo network, which revealed that there are **nearly 90,000 km of EuroVelo routes** to explore. This makes EuroVelo the **biggest cycle route network in the world!** The calculations also allowed to update the official lengths of the EuroVelo network, which are summarized in [this article](#).

Projects and Long-Term Management Agreements

2019 also saw the completion of two EU co-funded projects related to EuroVelo routes: the [EuroVelo 3 – Pilgrims Route](#) COSME Project that ended with a Final Conference in Santiago de Compostela in September, and the [EuroVelo 10 – Baltic Sea Cycle Route](#) Biking South Baltic! project, which brought partners together for the last time in Gdansk in October.

A key subject of cycle tourism tackled by the EuroVelo 3 COSME project was the **link between UNESCO sites and cycling**. With the special support of the University of Central Lancashire, the partners created a [manual](#) for the managers of UNESCO sites to guide them in their desire to welcome cycling travellers in the best way possible, and also organised a workshop on this topic in Jelling, a UNESCO World Heritage Site on the way of EuroVelo 3 – Pilgrims Route. Additional achievements from this project included the realisation of

new **bookable offers packages** for this route, the installation of **new signing** along EuroVelo 3 in Belgium and parts of Denmark and France and a **detailed survey of the route** that led to the publication of the [Transnational Action Plan](#).



Final EuroVelo 10 – Baltic Sea Cycle Route Biking South Baltic! Project meeting in Gdansk



EuroVelo 3 – Pilgrims Route COSME Project partners in Jelling, Denmark

In the 'Biking South Baltic' project, partners have sought to develop EuroVelo 10 – Baltic Sea Cycle Route as a cross-border, sustainable, well-recognised cycle tourism product utilising the **natural and cultural tourist resources of the South Baltic coastal regions**. During the project, the partners have gained an understanding of the current status of the southern section of EuroVelo 10 by undertaking a **detailed survey of the route**, using the European Certification Standard methodology developed by the ECF, and undertaken an extensive user survey, utilising both counters, which were also installed as part of the project, and detailed questionnaires. This information was used to develop a **long-term strategy (to 2030) for the whole route**.

Three more EuroVelo projects were ongoing in 2019: the [EuroVelo 1 – Atlantic Coast Route](#) AtlanticOnBike Project, the [EuroVelo 8 – Mediterranean Route](#) MEDCYCLETOUR Project, and the [ECO-CICLE](#) project that aims to improve natural and cultural heritage policies by creating a European network for the promotion of cycle tourism in natural areas.



EuroVelo 8 – Mediterranean route web launch event at Velo-city Dublin

In the frame of the AtlanticOnBike Project, the **translational Atlantic Coast Route website** was developed with touristic information and photoshoots provided by the partners. MEDCYCLETOUR Project partners also provided touristic information, photoshoots and other useful data to update the **transnational Mediterranean Route website** and to prepare the transnational [Mediterranean Route Promotional Brochures](#).

The new transnational websites of [EuroVelo 3 – Pilgrims Route](#), [EuroVelo 8 – Mediterranean Route](#), [EuroVelo 10 – Baltic Sea Cycle Route](#) and [EuroVelo 19 – Meuse Cycle Route](#) were launched at successful **networking events at the ECF/EuroVelo booth** during the week of Velo-city Dublin. Short presentations of the routes were given with the participation of project partners attending the event.

Additionally, the [EuroVelo 15 – Rhine Cycle Route](#) DEMARRAGE Project Long-Term Management Agreement (LTMA) continued after a three-year renewal in 2018, and a [EuroVelo 19 – Meuse Cycle Route](#) LTMA was signed for three years. In the summer, a EuroVelo 19 Photo Contest and a EuroVelo 15 Video Contest were organised to promote the routes. The photo contest encountered a big success, with more than 50 pictures submitted. A new [Esterbauer guide](#) on the Meuse Cycle Route was released during the year, based on the route data and partners' inputs.

Would you like to know more about the work on EuroVelo and cycling tourism? Click here to see [our top stories of 2019!](#)

Publications



Among the most relevant EuroVelo 2019 publications were:

1. EuroVelo 8 – Mediterranean Route Transnational Action Plan. Available [here](#).
2. EuroVelo 3 – Pilgrims Route Transnational Action Plan. Available [here](#).
3. Changing Gear: Encouraging cycling to UNESCO cultural and heritage sites. Available [here](#).

EuroVelo media pack and bookable offers' listing were also updated with a new design in line with the updated EuroVelo website. You can download the EuroVelo Media Pack [here](#), and the EuroVelo.com Listing Media Pack [here](#).

Updates from the NECC/Cs network

Set out below is a brief overview of just some of the work that was undertaken on a national level during 2019 coordinated by the NECC/Cs.

New signs

In **Belgium**, Wallonia continued the signing of EuroVelo 5 - Via Romea (Francigena), completing the 48.5km stretch between Dinant, Ciney, Buissonville (Rochefort) and Marche-en-Famenne.

Hungarian NECC reported that several developments were underway with regards to signing (but also marketing and communications) in **Hungary** during the year. In **Ireland**, new EuroVelo signs were installed in Wexford, covering a 120km stretch along EuroVelo 1 – Atlantic Coast Route. In **Switzerland**, A new information panel for EuroVelo routes, featuring the map of the network, was installed near Basel, on the itinerary of EuroVelo 6 – Atlantic-Black Sea and EuroVelo 15 – Rhine Cycle Route.



EuroVelo 5 sign in Ciney, Belgium



EuroVelo map panel installed in Basel, Switzerland

In **Spain**, new signing was installed in Catalonia in the frame of the MEDCYCLETOUR Project's pilot actions. The autonomous community of Valencia also joined the movement initiated by this project as the Valencian government announced plans to invest 10.9 million euros during two phases to fully develop this part of the Mediterranean Route. The first phase had an investment of 4.7 million euros and was expected to be operational by 2020. More information available [here](#).



Signing in Valencia, Spain

Spanish region of Castile and León finalised the signposting of a 500-km long stretch of EuroVelo 1 – Atlantic Coast Route.

New signing was also installed along EuroVelo 8 in Oltrepò Mantovano (**Italy**), **Croatia** and **Greece** in the frame of the MEDCYCLETOUR project, and along EuroVelo 10 – Baltic Sea Cycle Route and EuroVelo 13 – Iron Curtain Trail in Poland connected to the BikingSouthBaltic! Project.



EuroVelo 1 sign in Castile and León, Spain



Example of signing in Poland

New infrastructure

The Irish NECC reported the completion of the Dublin to Athlone section of EuroVelo 2 – Capitals Route in **Ireland**. Improvement works were also done on the Great Southern Trail Greenway which is part of EuroVelo 1 – Atlantic Coast Route. This included the refurbishment of Barnagh Tunnel in Limerick, which re-opened to the public in September.



Re-opening of Barnagh Tunnel in Limerick, Ireland

New cycling infrastructure flourished in Wallonia, **Belgium**, helping to improve the section of EuroVelo 3 – Pilgrims Route between Liège and Aachen (corresponding to RAVeL line 38), thanks to the 2016-2019 RAVeL investment plan of Wallonia's Ministry of Mobility and Public Works. The new developments were mainly intended to fill in missing links and allow cyclists to travel to new town and city centres from the existing RAVeL network by developing continuous cycle routes. More information available [here](#).



In **Croatia**, works started on the section of EuroVelo 8 – Mediterranean route between Split and Podstrana which will be connected with cycling paths. The project “Sea River Walk” foresaw the construction of a total of 1.97 kilometres of bicycle paths. More information available [here](#).

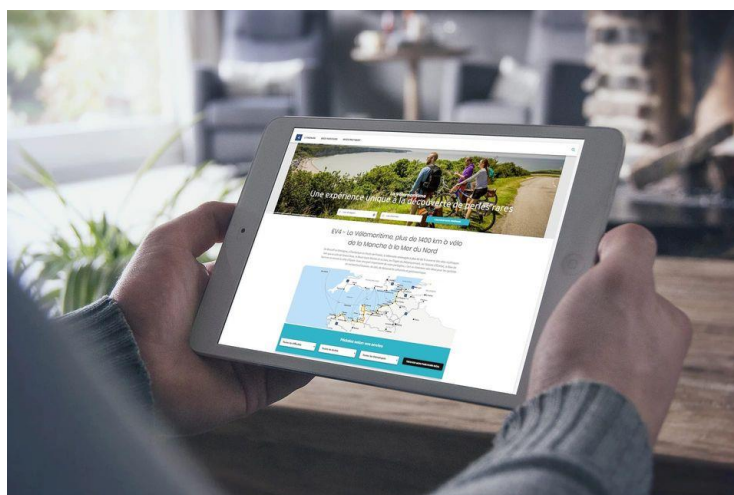
A critical spot on the southern stretch of EuroVelo 6 – Atlantic-Black Sea east of Melk, **Austria**, was improved, reported Radlobby, Austrian NEC. A new 400-metre-long and 2.5-metre-wide cycle path section was built east of Melk. More information available [here](#).

In **Poland**, the itineraries for EuroVelo 2 – Capitals Route and EuroVelo 11 – East Europe Route started to be updated in the Mazowieckie region, following the adoption by the Mazowieckie Voivodship of a new land-use plan. In order to ensure the construction of quality cycle routes, the plan defines some criteria that are consistent with the EuroVelo European Certification Standard. More information available [here](#). It was also announced that thanks to a new investment, cycle routes will be built in the Poprad Valley to complete sections of EuroVelo 11 - East Europe Route already under construction. Additionally, a 3-km bicycle path, including 3 new bridges, was built on EuroVelo 11 - East Europe Route in Pečovská Nová Ves in **Slovakia**.

In Valencia, **Spain**, the government plans to invest 10.9 million euros to fully develop this part of the Mediterranean Route included, as a second phase, an improvement of the quality of the route infrastructure. The improvements started but are scheduled to be completed by 2030. More information available [here](#). EuroVelo 8 was also further developed in the Province of Alicante, between Cocentaina and Batoi.

New websites

In **France**, the new EuroVelo 8 – Mediterranean Route subsite of the France Vélo Tourisme website was launched in the beginning of the year: www.francevelotourisme.com/itineraire/la-mediterranee-a-velo quickly followed by a new website for La Vélomaritime (EuroVelo 4 – Central Europe Route): www.lavelomaritime.com. Vélo & Territoires also released a new [reporting tool](#) for users on EuroVelo 1 - Atlantic Coast Route to improve and maintain the quality of cycle routes through a community network.



New website of French EuroVelo 4 section, “La Vélomaritime”

Additionally, a new website dedicated to the Austrian/Czech section of EuroVelo 13 – Iron Curtain Trail was launched in March: ev13.eu/en/.

This Annual Report aims to offer a general overview of the latest developments from across the EuroVelo network during 2019. Apologies if we have missed something out from your country. As we would like to share the latest news, and prepare an even more complete Annual Report next year, please keep us up-to-date with developments in your country by sending information to: eurovelo@ecf.com

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