



EuroVelo

Annual Report

2020

EuroVelo General Meeting 2021

European Cyclists' Federation



www.eurovelo.com

Introduction

The adoption of the new EuroVelo Strategy 2030, growing interest in cycling during the COVID-19 pandemic and a brand new route joining the EuroVelo network were just some of the highlights during a challenging but successful year for EuroVelo.

IN A NUTSHELL



95,959

Kilometres of EuroVelo routes in Europe



1,644,417

Visitors to the EuroVelo web platform



22

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

New strategy and governance, an extension to the network, publication of updated overview map and responding to the global pandemic

Marking the start of the new decade, the ECF Board adopted the **EuroVelo Strategy 2030** and new EuroVelo Governance in November 2020. The Strategy is one of the core sub-strategies of the overarching ECF Strategy 2030. It presents an ambitious plan for the continuing development of EuroVelo during the 2020s. The Governance meanwhile supports the delivery of the Strategy and describes how EuroVelo activities on the European level are steered, managed and influenced by its different stakeholders. Both documents were prepared in collaboration with the ECF Board, the EuroVelo Council, the ECF Management, the EuroVelo Management Team and the National EuroVelo Coordination Centres and Coordinators (NECC/Cs).

Crossing Austria and Hungary, **EuroVelo 14 – Waters of Central Europe** joined the EuroVelo network in June 2020 providing an important east–west link and connecting several existing EuroVelo routes. The route's name refers to the fact that it connects several important waterways – rivers, lakes and spas – located in central Europe. Indeed, the theme is arguably stronger when experienced on the route as it becomes apparent just how much of the itinerary is located close to water. Find out more about the route [here](#).





For obvious reasons, 2020 will be remembered for the COVID pandemic. As we highlighted in our summer campaign to **#RestartCycleTourism** after the first lockdown in Europe in spring, however, it could prove to be a pivotal moment for the tourism sector. People started to think carefully about their holiday plans for the first time and [figures from across Europe](#) last summer, indicated that many let the car rest and forgot the plane and instead opted for a bike-cation close to home or, by combining cycle trips with train journeys, further away. To encourage this further the EuroVelo Management Team (EVMT) put together some [tips for cycling holidays](#) and also [some stories of our own staycations](#).

The COVID pandemic also affected our plans for the **Provisional EuroVelo General Meeting (EVGM)** and the EuroVelo and Cycling Tourism Conference in October. In the end, the conference was postponed by a year to October 2021, while the Provisional EVGM went ahead but online. The meeting included the first ever election for a EuroVelo Council member. Erzsébet Péntes from the organisation Maketusz (part of the Hungarian NECC) was elected and officially joined the Council in January 2021. Last year also saw two **New NECCs** join the network as well in Slovenia and Finland.

The new **EuroVelo Overview Maps** arrived in March 2020 packed [packed full](#) of useful information on the EuroVelo network. All EuroVelo cycle routes are illustrated on a scale of 1:5,000,000 with accurate tracks based on the GPX data from the NECC/Cs. On the back of the map is a short introduction to each route, highlighting the theme and main attractions. You will also find here the contact details of the NECC/Cs in order to find more detailed information on the national level.



Projects and Long-Term Management Agreements

After a collaboration of over three years, the MEDCYCLETOUR project partners parted ways in August 2020 but this was not the end of the story: the development of EuroVelo 8 – Mediterranean Route will continue through a Long-Term Management Agreement (LTMA). Many achievements marked the last year of this project, such as the signing of a [Charter for Sustainable and Responsible Tourism in the MED Area](#), the [collection of 15 good practices on cycling tourism](#) and the publication of an Impact Assessment Report. The AtlanticOnBike project, funded by the EU Atlantic Area Interreg programme, also concluded in 2020 with an online [final project meeting and seminar](#) on 28-29 October 2020, gathering over 70 participants. This project allowed for surveying and monitoring major sections of one of the longest EuroVelo routes, developing a touristic [website](#) and creating other communication materials. A Long-Term Management Agreement has also been established to further ensure further collaboration on [EuroVelo 1 – Atlantic Coast Route](#).



Two more EuroVelo projects were ongoing in 2020: 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 and [Bicimugi](#), which aims to connect the itinerary of EuroVelo 3 with the surrounding rural areas by creating cycling loops through villages.

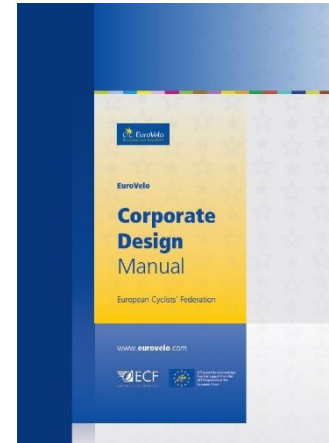
Additionally, the LTMAs for [EuroVelo 15 – Rhine Cycle Route](#) and [EuroVelo 19 – Meuse Cycle Route](#) continued during 2020. During the summer, a EuroVelo 19 Photo Contest and a EuroVelo 15 Video Contest were organised to promote these two popular river routes. Furthermore, a new [Esterbauer guide](#) to the Meuse Cycle Route was released during the year, based on the route data and partners' inputs.

Publications

Among the most relevant EuroVelo documents published in 2020 were:

1. EuroVelo Press Kit. Available [here](#).
2. EuroVelo Corporate Design Manual. Available [here](#).
3. Charter for Sustainable and Responsible Tourism in the MED Area. Available [here](#).
4. ECF Position Paper: Integrating EuroVelo, the European cycle route network, and cycling into the TEN-T. Available [here](#).

As set out above, a number of additional documents were prepared in the frame of EU projects, which are also all available from the EuroVelo.com website.



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 2020 coordinated by the NECC/Cs.

New infrastructure

The NECC/Cs are working to improve the EuroVelo routes with the aim to offer high quality cycling experiences across the continent. The 17 EuroVelo routes are in different stages of development. While for some sections improving the continuity of the routes or upgrading the surface is the next step in development, other routes are very close to or have already been certified as being a high-quality route according to the [European Certification Standard](#) (ECS). Therefore, different activities have been carried out for route development, including:

- On [EuroVelo 1 – Atlantic Coast Route](#) in Ireland, construction have started on a 33 km long Greenway linking Derry to Buncrana in County Donegal. Furthermore, the implementation process of the [extension of the southern end of the route](#) has also been started. The current end point in Caminha in Portugal will move north to Fisterra in Galicia, Spain.
- [EuroVelo 3 – Pilgrims Route](#) will also end in [Fisterra in Spain to meet EuroVelo 1](#), bridging a gap in the EuroVelo network. The work necessary has recently started and is expected to be finished at the end of 2021/beginning of 2022.
- On [EuroVelo 8 – Mediterranean Route](#) in Turkey, 58 km of new cycle paths are under construction in the Izmir Provence.
- On [EuroVelo 9 – Baltic-Adriatic](#) in Poland, 100 km of new cycle paths in the Pomeranian Voivodeship have been constructed.
- On [EuroVelo 11 – East Europe Route](#) in Hungary, the [cycle path around Lake Tisza](#) including a bridge crossing the lake has been completed.



New signs

A central part to the quality of the EuroVelo routes, and indeed any national or regional cycle route network, is signage. In 2020, NECC/Cs continued signing the EuroVelo network with the official EuroVelo route information panels. The easily recognisable signs allow cyclists to follow the itineraries across national borders without missing a turn. Here are a selection of the updates in this category:

- [EuroVelo 5 – Via Romea \(Francigena\)](#) has been [fully signposted](#) along its section in Wallonia.
- [EuroVelo 8 – Mediterranean Route](#) in Spain has received [new signage](#) along its itinerary. Over 100 kilometres have been signed in Andalusia and in Catalonia respectively. New EuroVelo 8 - Mediterranean Route signs also went up in Koper in Slovenia.
- [EuroVelo 12 – North Sea Cycle Route](#) is now fully signed along the [Belgian](#) and [Dutch](#) section of the route.



New websites

In 2020, NECC/Cs also worked on improving their online infrastructure offering cyclists all sorts of detailed information about cycling the EuroVelo routes.

- For [EuroVelo 8 – Mediterranean Route](#) in Croatia, a [brand-new website](#) has been developed offering a range of useful tools and information in one place.
- [EuroVelo.hu](#) was launched to offer detailed information and news about the EuroVelo routes crossing Hungary: [EuroVelo 6 – Atlantic-Black Sea](#), [EuroVelo 11 – East Europe Route](#), [EuroVelo 13 – Iron Curtain Trail](#) and the new [EuroVelo 14 – Waters of Central Europe](#).
- An [interactive map](#) providing all sorts of information on the three EuroVelo routes running through Spain ([EuroVelo 1 – Atlantic Coast Route](#), [EuroVelo 3 – Pilgrims Route](#) and [EuroVelo 8 – Mediterranean Route](#)).



Other developments

More creative and sometimes necessary activities to further enrich and improve touring the EuroVelo network have been undergone in the last year. Here are a few examples:

- On [EuroVelo 6 – Atlantic-Black Sea](#) in Hungary, a pilot project of a [solar-charged glowing bike path](#) has started near Esztergom.
- Along [EuroVelo 8 – Mediterranean Route](#) in Turkey, several [bike pumps](#) and other cycling tools have been installed.
- To secure travelling [EuroVelo 12 – North Sea Cycle Route](#) in the Netherlands, [special bicycle buses](#) have been made available over the Afsluitdijk, a major dam and causeway along the route which is closed for cyclists due to construction works.

This Annual Report aims to offer a general overview of the latest developments from across the EuroVelo network during 2020. 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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