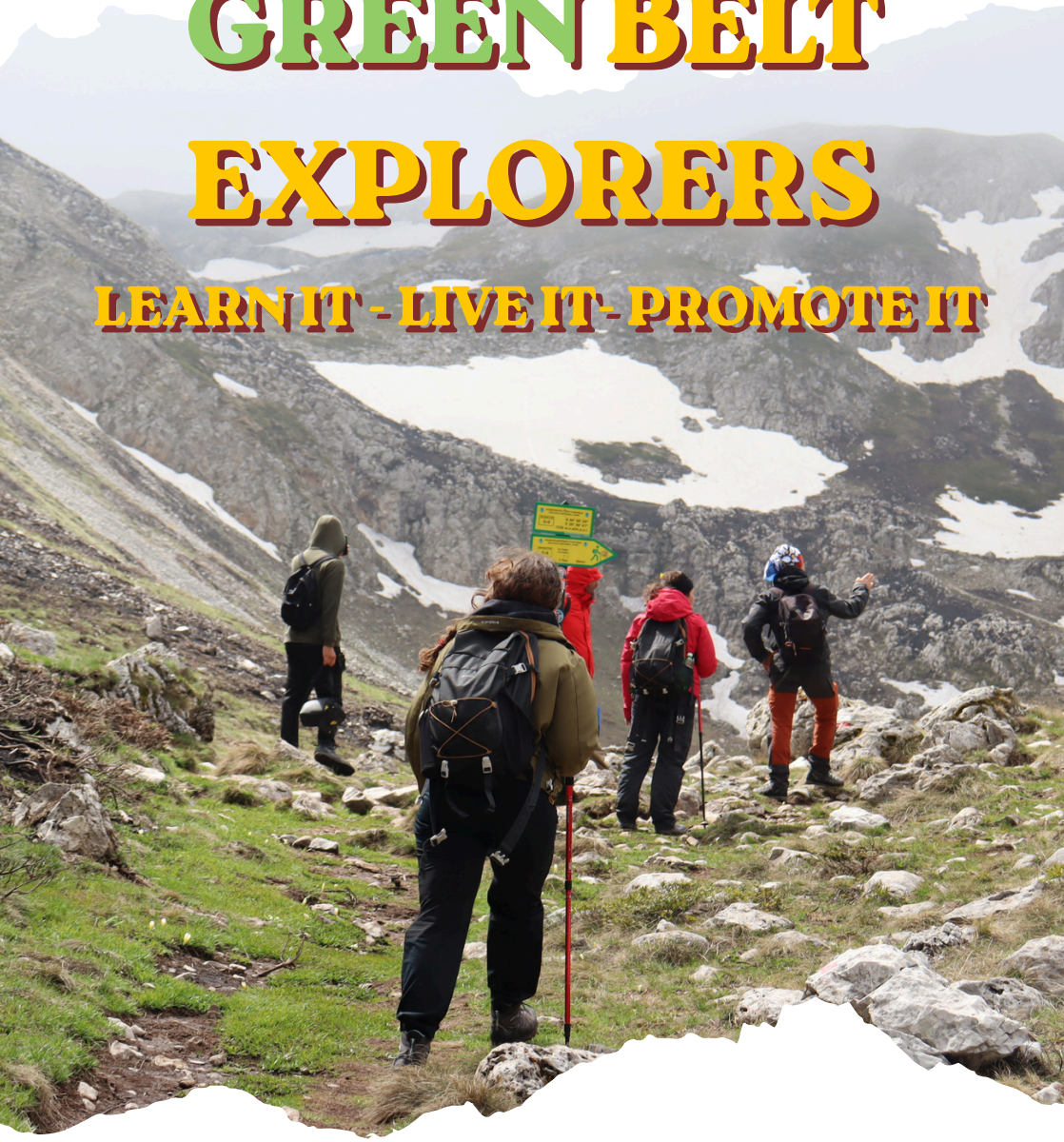
GREEN BELT EXPLORERS

LEARN IT - LIVE IT - PROMOTE IT



A YOUTH PROGRAMME CONNECTING NATURE, PEOPLE AND ACTION

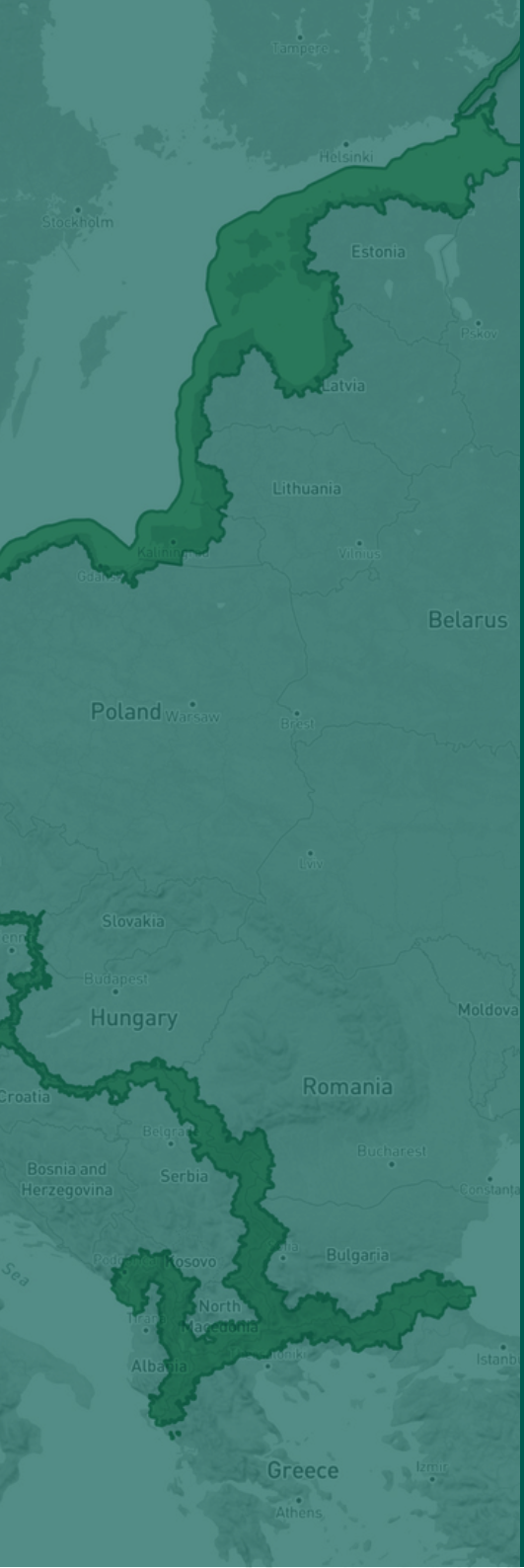
european greenbelt

BESTbelt

With financial support of the European Union



From division to connection.
The European Green Belt tells a unique story,
a story where borders became bridges,
and separation turned into cooperation.



WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN GREEN BELT?

The European Green Belt is a 12,500 km ecological corridor connecting 24 countries across Europe.

It follows the former Iron Curtain - once a symbol of division, now a symbol of unity.

Today, it connects forests, mountains, wetlands and protected areas.

It is one of the most important biodiversity corridors in Europe.

THE BALKAN GREEN BELT
A HIDDEN TREASURE







It is one of the most biodiverse regions in Europe and includes ancient forests, mountain ecosystems, lakes and wetlands and habitats for rare species.

Nature here is still wild, connected, and full of life.

Why Green Belt Explorers?

Young people protect what they understand.
And they understand what they experience.
This programme helps youth explore nature, learn by doing and take action

From learning → to experiencing → to protecting.



HOW THE PROGRAMME WORKS

VISIT GREEN BELT SITES

DEVELOP LOCAL INITIATIVES

EXPERIENCE

ACT

SHARE

LEARN



UNDERSTAND BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS

RAISE AWARENESS IN THE COMMUNITY

A CYCLE THAT CREATES REAL IMPACT



Going to places like these is more than a visit

It is learning in nature, understanding ecosystems and building connections.

You are not just a visitor.
You are an explorer.



RESPECT NATURE

DO NOT PICK PLANTS

DO NOT DISTURB ANIMALS

LEAVE NO WASTE

STAY ON MARKED PATHS AND AVOID FIRES

Respecting nature means protecting it.

STAY SAFE OUTDOORS

Stay with your group
Check weather conditions
Wear proper clothing
Bring enough water
Follow your guide

Nature is powerful - respect it.



WHAT TO PACK?

Backpack

Notebook

Water

Hiking shoes

Hat/Sunscreen

Camera/Binocular

Snacks



WHEN TO VISIT?

Seasons of the Green Belt

Every season tells a different story.

SPRING – BIODIVERSITY & BIRDS

SUMMER – MOUNTAINS & EXPLORATION



AUTUMN – FORESTS & LANDSCAPES

WINTER – LIMITED BUT UNIQUE

GALICHICA

National Park Galichica
(N. Macedonia)

Located between Lake Ohrid and Lake Prespa, Galichica is one of the most important national parks in the region. It is known for its exceptional biodiversity, with over 1,600 plant species, many of which are endemic, as well as its diverse mountain ecosystems that connect two unique lake environments.

The park is home to a variety of wildlife, including birds of prey, mammals, and rare plant species, making it an important area for conservation and scientific research. During our visit, we explored different natural zones, observed biodiversity, and discussed the impact of tourism and human activity on this sensitive ecosystem.

Lake Ohrid is one of the oldest and deepest lakes in Europe, hosting a large number of endemic species found nowhere else in the world.




BESTbelt










BESTbelt

JABLANICA

Jablanica Mountain
(N. Macedonia)

Jablanica Mountain is an important part of the Balkan Green Belt, located along the border between North Macedonia and Albania. As a key ecological corridor, it plays a vital role in connecting habitats and allowing wildlife to move freely across the region.

The area is characterized by ancient beech forests, rich biodiversity, and habitats for large mammals such as bears and wolves. These forests are among the most preserved in the region and are essential for maintaining ecological balance and supporting species that depend on large, connected territories.

During our visit, we explored forest ecosystems and observed how different habitats function together. We also learned about the importance of wildlife corridors and how they enable animals to migrate, find food, and reproduce safely. Jablanica reminds us that nature does not follow political boundaries. Protecting such areas requires cooperation across borders and a shared responsibility for preserving these ecosystems.

Nature has no borders.






BESTbelt





OLD OLIVE TREE

Old Olive Tree – Bar (Montenegro)

Over 2,000 years old, the Old Olive Tree in Bar - known as Stara Maslina - is one of the oldest olive trees in Europe and a symbol of longevity and resilience.

For centuries, it has witnessed changes in nature and human life, yet it continues to grow and bear fruit. More than a natural monument, it represents the deep connection between people and land through traditional and sustainable practices such as olive cultivation.

During our visit, we reflected on how cultural heritage and environmental protection are closely linked. The Old Olive Tree reminds us that protecting nature also means preserving traditions and identity.

Olive trees are among the most resilient species, capable of regenerating even after severe damage.

OLD OLIVE TREE

Old Olive Tree – Bar (Montenegro)

Over 2,000 years old, the Old Olive Tree in Bar - known as Stara Maslina - is one of the oldest olive trees in Europe and a symbol of longevity and resilience.

For centuries, it has witnessed changes in nature and human life, yet it continues to grow and bear fruit. More than a natural monument, it represents the deep connection between people and land through traditional and sustainable practices such as olive cultivation.

During our visit, we reflected on how cultural heritage and environmental protection are closely linked. The Old Olive Tree reminds us that protecting nature also means preserving traditions and identity.

Olive trees are among the most resilient species, capable of regenerating even after severe damage.



ULCINJ SALINA

Ulcinj Salina (Montenegro)

Ulcinj Salina is one of the most important wetland ecosystems in Europe and a key part of the Balkan Green Belt. Located along the Adriatic coast, it has long been known both for traditional salt production and for its exceptional ecological value.

The area is home to over 250 bird species, including flamingos, pelicans, and many migratory birds that use the Salina as a resting and feeding point along major migration routes. Because of this, it is considered one of the most significant bird habitats in the Mediterranean region.

During our visit, we observed bird species in their natural environment and learned about the importance of wetlands. We explored how water levels, salinity, and human management influence biodiversity, and how protecting these systems is essential for maintaining ecological balance.
Ulcinj Salina is also an example of how human activity and nature can coexist. Traditional salt production has helped shape the habitat, showing that sustainable practices can support biodiversity rather than harm it.

Wetlands are vital for life, supporting ecosystems, regulating water, and providing habitats for countless species.




solana ulcinj
crna gora
morska kuhinjska
fina
jodrana









DJERDAP

Djerdap National Park (Serbia)

Located along the Danube River, Djerdap National Park is one of the largest protected areas in Serbia. It is best known for the Iron Gates Gorge, where the river cuts through the mountains, creating one of the most impressive landscapes in Europe. The park combines river ecosystems, forests, and steep cliffs, together with important cultural sites such as Lepenski Vir.

During our visit, we explored viewpoints like Ploče and Kovilovo and visited Golubac Fortress, gaining a deeper understanding of both the natural and historical significance of the area.

A key focus of our experience was the balance between development and conservation. Djerdap shows that protecting nature while supporting human needs is a challenge, but also a necessity.










EUROPEAN GREEN BELT DAYS

11 - 24 September

BRINGING NATURE CLOSER TO PEOPLE THROUGH WORKSHOPS, GAMES, CLEAN-UP ACTIONS AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS


BESTbelt




More
power
for the
European
Green Belt
BESTbelt


european
greenbelt





WHAT WE LEARNED

Nature must be experienced

Youth can lead change

Cooperation is essential

Small actions matter

Change starts with us



BECOME A GREEN BELT EXPLORER



Explore.
Respect.
Protect.

Be part of the movement.

european greenbelt

BESTbelt

With financial support of the European Union