

Michael Cramer MEP

The 'Iron Curtain Trail'

«Sustainable mobility as a European “peace” project»



**Presentation by Michael Cramer
Brussels, 30 November 2016**



A ride through European History



- from the Barents Sea to the Black Sea
- along the Western border of the former *Warsaw Pact* states
- 10,000 kilometers
- through 20 countries, with Croatia
- 15 are now EU Member States

The route

- as close as possible to the former border
- as comfortable as possible
- avoiding highly frequented roads
- frequently crossing the former border
- integrating numerous historic monuments



The route is still a “work in progress” on the basis of the above mentioned principles!

A European project

“The Iron Curtain Trail should be supported as an example of Soft Mobility and as a symbol of the reunification of Europe.”

European Parliament resolution from 8th of September 2005 on new prospects and new challenges for sustainable European tourism

The model: the „Berlin Wall Trail“



160 km around former West-Berlin



The Brandenburg Gate 1961 / 1989



Memorials for the victims of the Wall



Chris Gueffroy



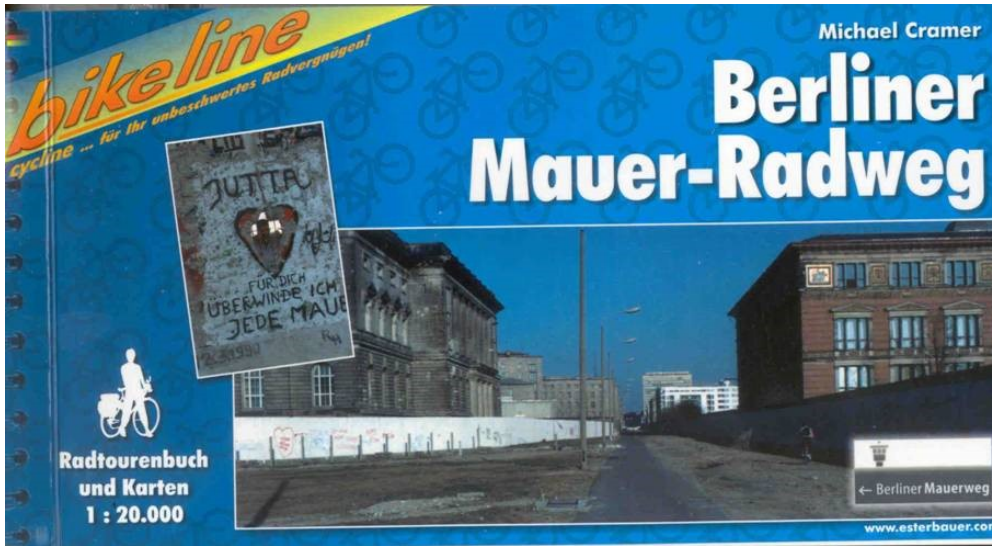
Peter Fechter

“The Berlin Wall tours“ - discovering the former border strip

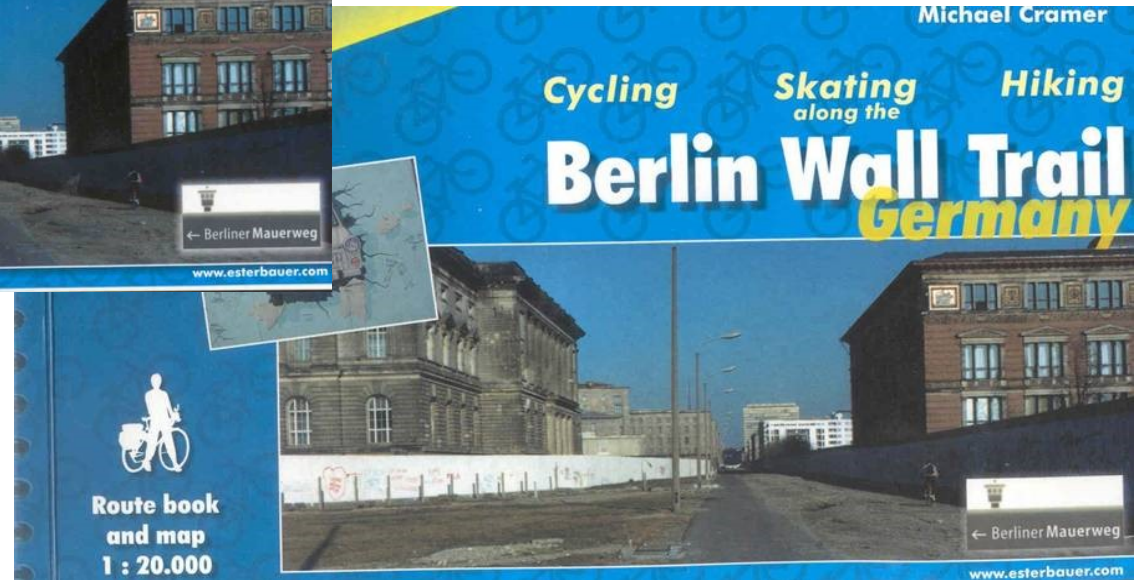




The Berlin Wall Trail in German...



...and in English.



The Northern Part



- Russian-Norwegian border
- Russian-Finnish border

and the Baltic Coast in:

- Russia
- Estonia
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Kaliningrad exclave
- Poland
- the former GDR

The Northern Part



Norway: Starting point at Grense Jakobselv on the Norwegian-Russian border

The Northern Part



Norway: Kirkenes



Norway: near Kirkenes

The Northern Part



Finland: Fellow road users in Lapland

The Northern Part



Finland: border near Ala Vuokki



Finland: Jyränkoski memorial

The Northern Part



Finland: Finnish watch tower near Värtsilä



Russia: Russian watch tower near Salo-Issakka

The Northern Part



Russia: Vyborg with castle and Fyodor Apraksin Monument



Source: <http://images.travelpod.com>

Russia: Winter Palace (Ermitage) in St. Petersburg

The Northern Part



Estonia: The Narva river marks the EU border with Russia



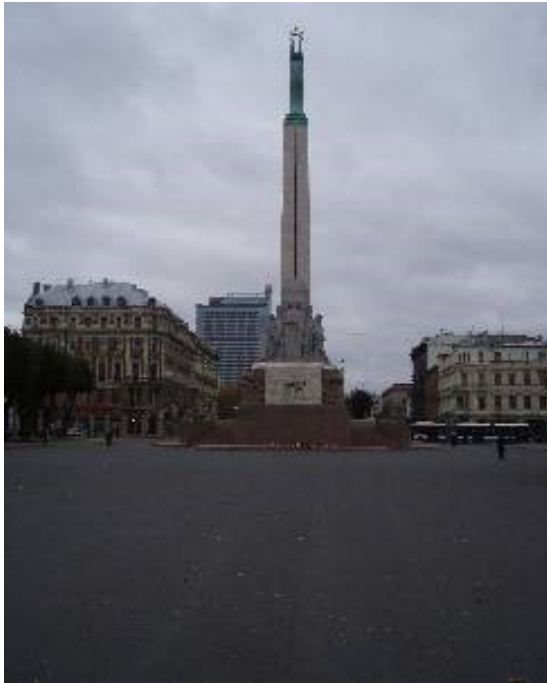
Estonia: Tallinn

The Northern Part



Baltics: Citizen chain from Tallinn via Riga to Vilnius on 23.08.1989

The Northern Part



Latvia: Freedom Monument in Riga



Latvia: Museum of Occupation in Riga

The Northern Part



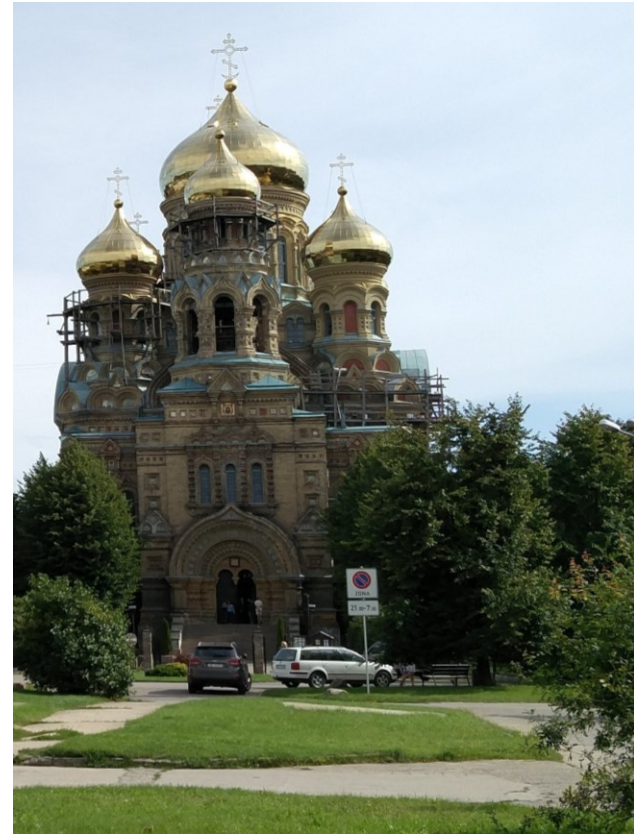
Latvia: Holocaust-memorial as “seven-lamp (Menorah)” nearby Liepaja

The Northern Part



Latvia: Northern Fort & beaches nearby Liepaja

The Northern Part



Latvia: ICT-signposting nearby Liepaja & Orthodox Cathedral Saint Nikolai in Karosta

The Northern Part



Latvia: Excellent bicycle route on the beach close to Jurmala



Lithuania: Paved cycle route on the Courland Split

The Northern Part



Lithuania: Klaipeda (Memel)
Simon-Dach-fountain with
Ännchen von Tharau



Lithuania: Thomas Mann's
summer cottage on the
Courland Split in Nida

The Northern Part

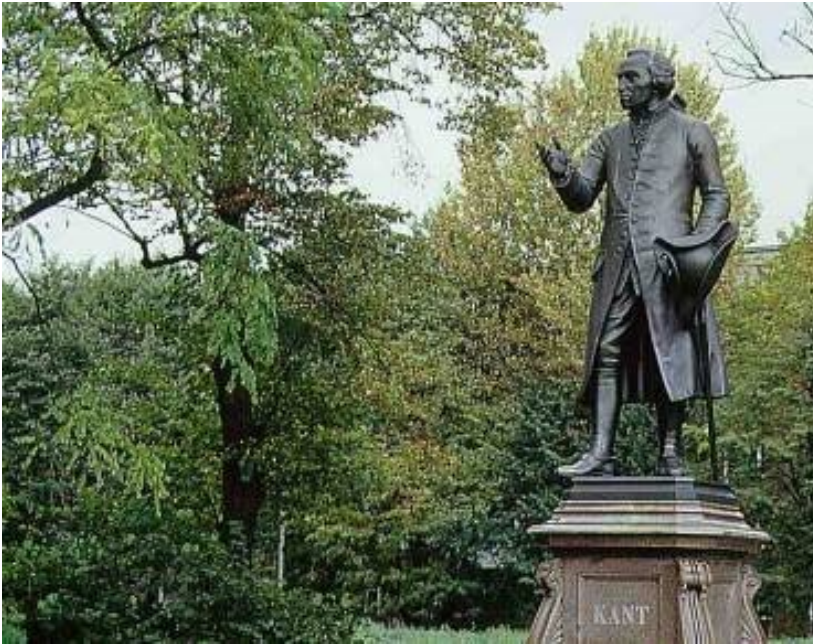


Lithuania: Baltic coast



Kaliningrad: Russian watch tower on the Courland Spit

The Northern Part



Kaliningrad: Kant Memorial



Kaliningrad: the Cathedral

The Northern Part



Poland: City center of Gdańsk



Poland: Solidarność memorial in Gdańsk

The Northern Part



Poland: Train station in Świnoujście



Poland/Germany: Świna river

Through Central Europe



- The former German-German border and the borders between
 - Czech Republic - Germany
 - Austria
 - Slovakia - Austria

Through Central Europe



Warnemünde: light house



Heiligendamm: Narrow-gauge train "Molli"

Through Central Europe



Kühlungsborn: Watch tower



Groß Schwansee: Stele Cap Arcona

Through Central Europe



Before 1989: The Baltic Sea near Priwall at Lübeck-Travemünde



After 1989: The open border near Priwall at Lübeck-Travemünde

Through Central Europe



Before 1989: a border patrol boat near Bleckede



After 1989: a ferry-service near Bleckede

Through Central Europe



Before 1989: Lindewerra with watch tower and broken bridge



After 1989: Lindewerra with the bridge instead of a watch tower

Through Central Europe



Point Alpha: Former death strip with US and Soviet watchtower



Point Alpha: Remnants of the border fence in the open-air museum

Through Central Europe



Before 1989: Görsdorf with the death strip



After 1989: Nature is back again in Görsdorf

Through Central Europe



Before 1989: Mödlareuth then called „Little Berlin“ with the wall



After 1989: Mödlareuth today without the wall

The Southern Part

Along the border between...



- Hungary - Austria
- Slovenia
- Croatia
- Serbia
- Romania - Serbia
- Bulgaria - Serbia
- Macedonia
- Greece
- Turkey

The Southern Part



Czech Republic: Memorial near Svätý Kríž



Czech Republic: The Iron Curtain near Cheb (around 1980)

The Southern Part



Czech Republic: Sculpture close to the border near Dolní Hradičná

The Southern Part



Austria: Iron Curtain Memorial near Guglwald



Slovakia: remnants of the barbed wire

The Southern Part



Hungary: Open door memorial in Sopron



Hungary: Alois Mock and Gyula Horn cutting the fence on 27 June 1989

The Southern Part



Slovenia: Watch tower near Hodos



Slovenia: Cultural center in Lendava

The Southern Part



Croatia: Watch tower on the Croatian-Hungarian border



Croatia: Memorial near Batina

The Southern Part



Croatia: Cycle path on the dam of the river Drava



Croatia: Watch tower near Kapinci

The Southern Part



Serbia: ICT near Kikinda



Serbia: Bob Marley Monument in Banatski Sokolac

The Southern Part



Serbia: Tabula Traiana



Romania: Decibal sculpture

The Southern Part



Romania & Serbia:

Trajan's Bridge on 19 arches and 20 pillars (105 A.D.)

The Southern Part



Serbia: War Monument near Halovo



Bulgaria: Watch tower near Halovo

The Southern Part



Macedonia: The border near Novo Selo without barbed wire



Macedonia: Border post close to Novo Selo

The Southern Part



Macedonia: The former Yugoslavian watch tower nearby Novo Selo



Bulgaria: Watch tower on the bulgarian side nearby Novo Selo

The Southern Part



Macedonia: Crossing the finish line close to Strumica



Greece: The village of Petrotá

The Southern Part



Turkey: Bridge across Evros river, constructed between 1554-1560

The Southern Part



Turkey: Selimiye Mosque (1575) in Edirne
with highest minarets of Turkey (71m)

The Southern Part



Bulgaria: Watch tower at the border between Turkey and Bulgaria

The Southern Part



Turkey: Watch tower at the border between Turkey and Bulgaria

National parks along the ICT

- Finnish-Russian National Park
- Bavarian Forest (DE) – Sumava (CZ)
- Thayatal (AT) – Podyjí (CZ)
- Fertő-Hanság (HU) – Neusiedler See (AT)

NB: Moving patterns of deer at the German-Czech border



New EU competence

Article § 195 of the Lisbon Treaty

TOURISM

(1) The Union shall complement the action of the Member States in the tourism sector [...]

To that end, Union action shall be aimed at:

- a) encouraging the creation of a favourable environment for the development of undertakings in this sector;**
- b) promoting cooperation between the Member States, particularly by the exchange of good practice.**

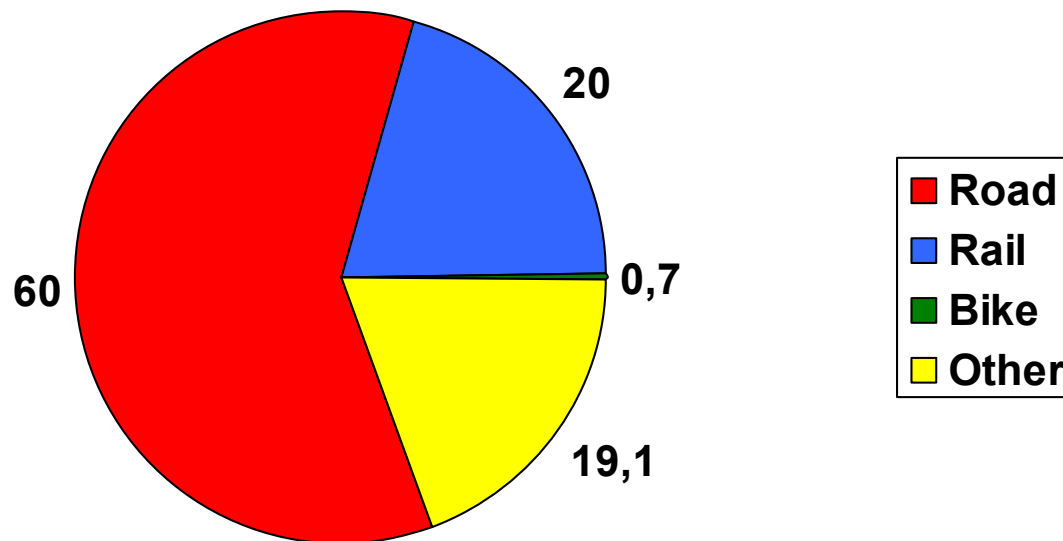
Available EU funding

- **Preparatory action – Sustainable tourism**
Total budget: 1 million EUR
- **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**
Total budget: more than 1 billion EUR
- **Cross-border cooperation (INTERREG)**
Total budget: 50 milion EUR



EU-funding

Allocation of EU co-funding by mode of transport



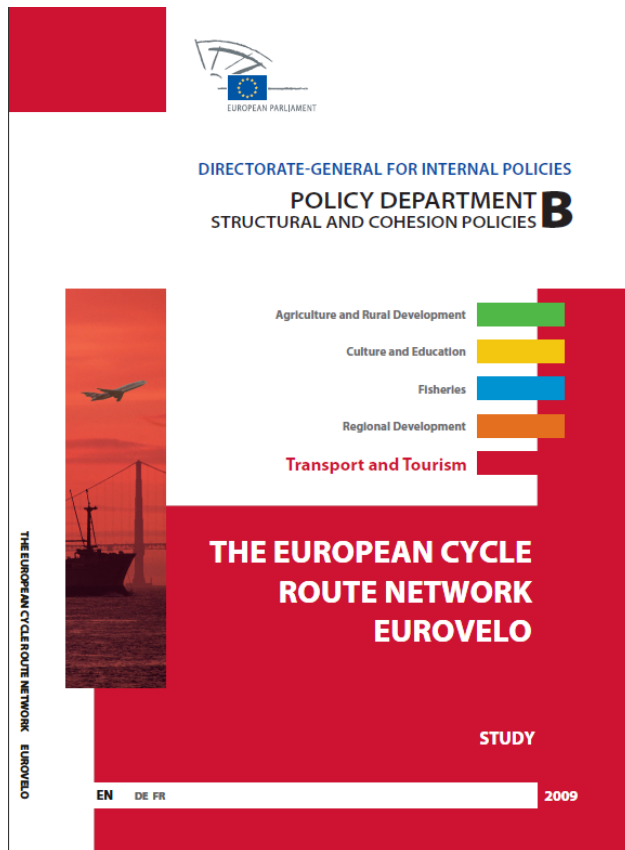
Hungary leads the way: It uses 2% of EU funding for cycling

The EuroVelo Network



1. Atlantic Coast Route
2. Capitals Route
3. Pilgrims Route
4. Central Europe Route
5. Via Romea Francigena Route
6. Rivers Route
7. Sun Route
8. Mediterranean Route
9. Amber Route
10. Hansa Circuit
11. East Europe Route
12. North Sea Cycle Route
- 13. Iron Curtain Trail**
15. Rhine Route

The European Cycle Route Network EuroVelo (2012/ Update)



- Study evaluates the challenges and opportunities for cycle tourism in Europe
- “Iron Curtain Trail” is expressly mentioned
- history as the only potential for tourism in remote regions
- Available on the European Parliament website at:

<http://gruenlink.de/dqf>

Bicycle tourism

- Since several decades an increase of 20% / year
- Bicycle tourism: Only for pupils, students & poor people?
- Bicycle tourists spend more money a day than car tourists and therefore support the local economy
- Investment costs for bicycle infrastructure are low while benefits are high
- Finnish study (Helsinki): For one invested Euro, the return is eight (!)
- Example of the Danube cycle route: an increase from 500 cycle tourists in 2006 to 13 000 in 2012

Next steps for the Iron Curtain Trail



- × Integration on local, regional and national level
- × Signposting with the logo
- × Developing and maintaining the trail in a bicycle friendly manner
- × Heritage protection for the still existing remains of the Iron Curtain
- × Introduction of locally adapted “Berlin Wall Tours” along the regional stretches of the ICT
- × *(Possibly make the Iron Curtain Trail a European Cultural Route: www.culture-routes.lu)*
- × **Working together with “old” and “new” partners to establish the Iron Curtain Trail as a sustainable and lasting project across borders**

EuroVelo Route No.13



Iron Curtain Trail and European Green Belt



- Cooperation between the Iron Curtain Trail and the European Green Belt
- Patron: Mikhail Gorbachev, president of Green Cross International

Patrons of the Iron Curtain Trail



**Northern Part:
Lech Wałęsa**

**Southern Part:
Václav Havel**



**Central Part:
Marianne Birthler**



The book series

In English



In German



The website



iron curtain trail

English

Podji National Park
GERMANY
varian Forest
CZECH REP.
AUSTRIA
Neusiedler See National Park

ATPŪTAI DABA

10

Startseite
Über das Projekt
Die Etappen
Umsetzung & Förderung
Veröffentlichungen
Veranstaltungen
Presse
Kontakt
Links
Impressum

Europäische Geschichte mit dem Rad "erfahren"

Welcome on the official Iron Curtain Trail website!

Willkommen auf der offiziellen Webseite zum Europa-Radweg Eiserner Vorhang!

Für nahezu ein halbes Jahrhundert teilte der Eiserner Vorhang Europa gewaltsam in Ost und West. Diese Teilung des Kontinents mit dem Fahrrad im wahrsten Sinne des Wortes "erfahrbar" zu machen, ist das Ziel des europäischen Radwanderwegs *Iron Curtain Trail*.

Zum Seitenanfang • Druckversion • Seite empfehlen

Neu auf der Seite

Bulgaria commits to ICT
22.12.2011 | Bulgaria to Participate in Europe's Newest Bicycle Route Along Iron Curtain Trail writes the Bulgarian News Agency (Pressespiegel) [mehr »](#)

EuroVelo 13 - Iron Curtain Trail - Nord
19.12.2011 | Die finnische Homepage pkamk.fi bietet detaillierte Karten zum nördlichen Teil des Iron Curtain Trail in englischer Sprache an. (Pressespiegel) [mehr »](#)

Stežka železné opony se představila Bruselu. I se záštitou ministra Schwarzenberga
19.12.2011 | Bericht über die Vorstellung des aktuellen Standes des Iron Curtain Trails in Brüssel (in tschechischer Sprache) (Pressespiegel) [mehr »](#)



The Greens | EFA
in the European Parliament

www.ironcurtaintrail.eu

Thank you for your attention!



Find out more on www.ironcurtaintrail.eu