

## Solidarity Cycling Tour in Belarus



The European Centre for Ecological and Agricultural Tourism is an international network of organisations for the promotion and integration of tourism with rural development, sustainable land use and nature protection. ECEAT has been established in 1991 - with financial support of the European Union - in order to promote tourism as an alternative source of income for the farmers and rural populations of Central Europe.

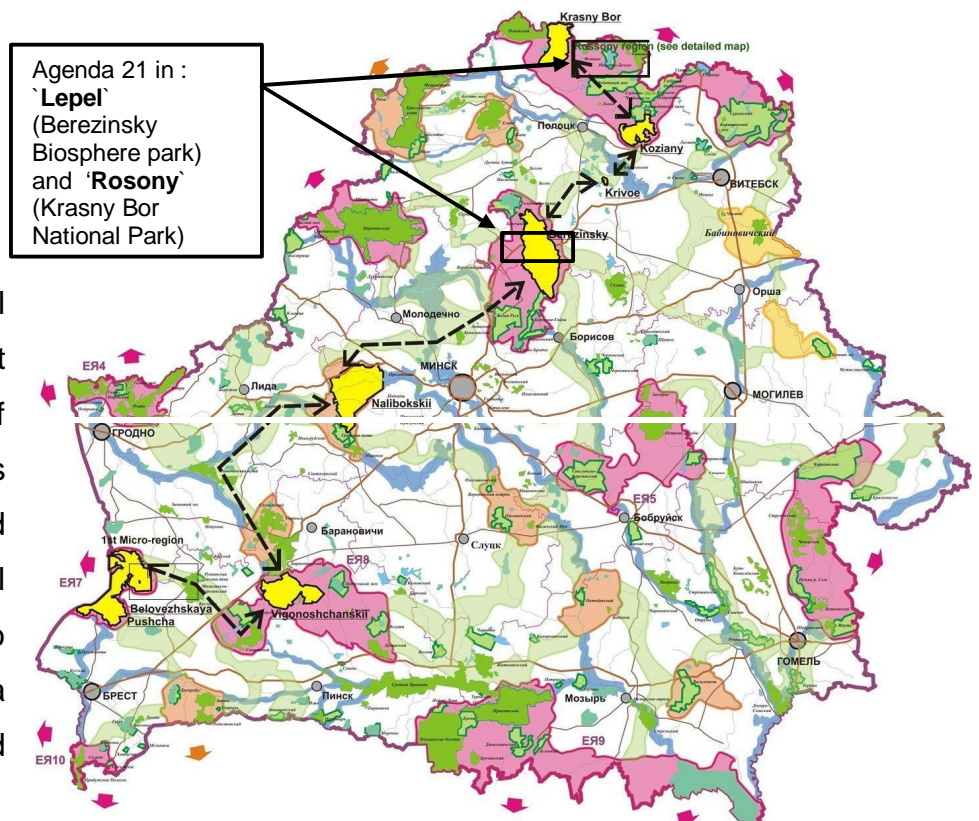
We, in this purpose, develop and organize projects that are able to create a beneficial impact on the local populations and the visitors, favoring contact between them, and limiting the effects of tourism on nature. *Solidarity Cycling in Belarus* is one of these projects that are supported by the European Commission.



### ¥ What is the “Solidarity Cycling Tour” ?

ECEAT-Holland, associated with ECEAT-Belarus, created this tour as a way to move closer western Europe and Belarus, a country yet not much known, which has a strong potential and willing to open itself to abroad.

Departing from Bielowieza, Polish town on the south-west border of Belarus, to the north-east, we will cover in thirty days about 800 kilometers of beautiful preserved areas of Belarusian nature and typical villages. We will also be led to cross two different areas where a local Agenda 21 (a world



initiative for sustainable development) is being developed by local committees. A day out of two, when not cycling, we will meet the local people, with whom we will debate and discuss, sharing our positions and cultures.



Our objectives are :

- to share and exchange our different ways of life and environment with the Belarusian people from many villages
- to learn how and why it is important to reduce our impact on nature
- to get to know Belarus nature, wildlife and flora
- to realise how nature is being exploited there and how these resources are necessary for the country's economy
- to discover a new territory for tourism, different horizons and beings, to encounter new paths of original eco-corridors
- to appreciate cycling together and regularly
- and, of course, to enroll oneself in a human adventure, with people from many different countries.

/ Who is the tour aimed at ?

We have planned, for this first edition, a total number of around twenty persons, ten volunteers from Belarus and the other ten from different countries of Europe.

At the rate of 60 kilometers a day, and one day of cycling out of two, volunteers will not need to be confirmed athletes, but a good physical condition is required. Age is not really important, as far as the volunteer is healthy and is quite used to sport leisure.

The volunteers we are looking for are people who like meeting different cultures, are open to differences, enjoy communicating and respect nature.

## ◊ What are the conditions ?

The volunteers are asked to find their own way of getting to Bielowieza, where the start of our Solidarity Cycling Tour will take place. They may want to take their own bikes, or we will help them to rent some at destination.

Each volunteer will be charged around 20 euros a day, which include food, accommodation, guiding. We will take care of the luggage, which will follow the volunteers in a car. ECEAT-Belarus will help the volunteers to get a visa in the shortest time.

## 0 When is the Solidarity Cycling Tour planned ?

The tour is thirty days long, but is divided into three different periods, so that the volunteers that want to stay ten days are able to do it. The first period will start in Bielowieza, and the second one in Minsk.



Minsk, a colourful capital

The tour is set up for the 15th of August to the 15th of September 2007. The deadline for registering is May 2007.

## © How to register ?

The volunteers that are hoping to be a part of this great adventure should register themselves, sending an e-mail to this adress : [belarus@eceat.nl](mailto:belarus@eceat.nl).

Please do not hesitate to contact us for any question, remark or thought. Thank you, and see you soon !

