



PRESENTATION

Since four years ago our Foundation is working in collaboration with the Department of Territorial Policy and Public Works of the Catalan Government on the promotion of policies in favour of the bicycle implementation, in the city as well as in the nature.

The organization and promotion of the 1st and the 2nd Congress of the Bicycle and the launch of the Public Bicycle Conference, of which second edition has been celebrated recently in Seville; they have meant a significant advance for the development of the bicycle in our country. Likewise, they have helped to give prestige to this vehicle and being aware of the need to deploy public policies favourable to its development and promotion.

One of the favourable initiatives, in this case focused to increase the use of the bicycle in the time of leisure, there are undoubtedly the Greenways. These old railway infrastructures are, day by day, more used by all kind of people to discover the territory in a different way.

In spite of that, there is one aspect about the active tourism that is not too much developed in our country: the cycle tourism.

There are different reasons why make the necessity to offer different alternatives to the sun and beach tourism, like the unfavourable economic conjuncture and the increasing interest in relation with the climate change; without forgetting the positive opinion about the non-contaminant transports.

Because of all that, we think that it would be so interesting to offer a place to debate and reflex, a place where all the implicated actors could share their own experiences. It will be also focused to who promote or who want to take part of that new economic segment, the cycle tourism (the *saddlebag* or the sportive cycle tourism).

Our country offers several places for the cycling tourism, local and regional roads of great beauty that cross natural parks, sea and mountain areas suitable for cycling, big and mythic summits that represent a challenge for the cyclists, small villages near the Greenways, etc.

At the same time we have to animate our citizens to look for new challenges by bicycle. This is not only a Sunday activity; it is a good way to come into contact with the territory, a natural and sustainable way to travel. That is the cycle tourism.

To promote all that, to reflex, learn and show, we are organising the CYCLE TOURISM CONGRESS COSTA BRAVA that will be celebrated in Santa Cristina d'Aro, Platja d'Aro and Sant Feliu de Guixols from 1st to 4th October 2009.

Hope to see you there.