



FORM BEST PRACTICES CONTEST 2025

Municipality Borger-Odoorn and Westerwolde Country The Netherlands

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Name project

Historic Cycling Route: 'From Redoubt to Monastery – Cycling through Peat and the Past'
(Borger-Odoorn – Westerwolde)

Category Certification Criteria: mark the category of your project

- ☐ Energy and environmental policies (politiche energetiche e ambientali);
- ☐ Infrastructure policies (politiche infrastrutturali);
- ☐ Quality of urban life policies (politiche per la qualità urbana);
- ☒ Agricultural, touristic and artisan policies (politiche agricole, turistiche, artigianali);
- ☒ Policies for hospitality, awareness and training (politiche per l'ospitalità, la consapevolezza e la formazione);
- ☐ Social cohesion (coesione sociale).

Summary project

The cycling route from the Valtherschans redoubt in Valthe (Borger-Odoorn) to the monastery in Ter Apel (Westerwolde) brings a piece of history back into the landscape. Nearly two centuries ago, the early inhabitants of this area used an old peat bridge to cross this region. Now, the new cycling route guides tourists and visitors through the same area, where they can listen to podcast clips sharing stories from past lives at various points along the way. These stories are told from the perspective of historical characters, making it feel as though you're having a casual conversation and being taken back in time right here and now. Tourists can, for example, hear stories about the bog bodies, a soldier stationed at the Valtherschans, or the prior who once led the monastery.

Goal project

The goal of this project is to raise awareness and enthusiasm among residents and visitors about the rich history and the lives once lived in this region. It also fosters recognition and appreciation of the legacy left behind. Additionally, tourists visiting our municipality get to discover new places, a healthy lifestyle is encouraged, and the Cittaslow municipalities are more closely connected. In doing so, we express our pride in our (shared) identity.

Result project

The cycling route (approx. 50 km) encourages residents and visitors/tourists to explore the surrounding areas of both Cittaslow regions, Borger-Odoorn and Westerwolde, in a healthy and active way. They become more aware of the history and can enjoy and experience it through the stories and the landscape.



Finance (costs and benefits)

Costs: € 4.000,00

Staff (staff involved and use of time)

Florien Wiersma, Westerwolde, Annette Toepoel, Borger-Odoorn, Olav Reijers,
Rinus van Venrooij, SBBO

Additional information (if necessarily)

Link website Under construction
(if available)

Once filled in this form please send it to: info@cittaslow.net
- Participation Deadline, 12 May 2025 -