

What's On



'Cycling along the Last Borders' is the motto of two EURAC (European Academy Bolzano), researchers from South Tyrol in Italy who will be crossing Cyprus and the Green Line with their mountain bikes from today to May 4. Why?

Because the two cyclists, Gabriel Toggenburg and Günther Rautz, wish to grasp the atmosphere in both the North and the South in this very specific historical moment at the dawn of Cyprus' EU membership.

In 2003, Toggenburg and Rautz undertook a project based in Cyprus, in co-operation with the German-Cypriot Forum. The project, entitled 'Civil Society Dialogue on Intercultural Co-operation' aimed at the establishment of an intercultural dialogue between the civil societies in the northern and southern parts of Cyprus.

Toggenburg and Rautz are riding east

towards Nicosia and will arrive on May 1 to participate together with their Cypriot project partners in the various events organised for Cyprus' EU accession. After May 1, they will continue west along the Green Line. Their provisional road map is as follows:

April 28: Larnaca – Pyla – BORDER – Klopsida – Famagusta – BORDER – Pyla;

April 29: Pyla – Athienou – Lympia – Dali – Geri;

April 30: Geri – Nicosia – BORDER – Kyrenia – BORDER – Nicosia;

May 1: Nicosia;

May 2: Nicosia – BORDER – Morphou – BORDER – Nicosia;

May 3: Nicosia – Pera Chorio – Pyrga – Larnaca;

May 4: Larnaca Airport.

'Cycling along the Last Borders' sends a

symbolic signal. It aims at destructing borders, both in the heads of people and amongst people. Toggenburg and Rautz are both aware that such a project cannot change the world, but that it may change the way we look at the world. Similar projects – like 'Breaking the Ice' which tried to achieve a peaceful dialogue between Palestine and Israel or the 'First European Minority Marathon' in Flensburg which highlights the cultural diversity of Europe and aims to break down prejudices – show that the combination of sport and societal engagement may become important means of awareness within Europe and beyond.

Starts: Today. Until May 4. For more information please call on +39-338-6169650, +39-348-8230639, +39-0471-0550036 or e-mail g.rautz@eurac.edu, Gabriel.vontoggenburg@eurac.edu or Valentina.bergonzi@eurac.edu

On their bikes