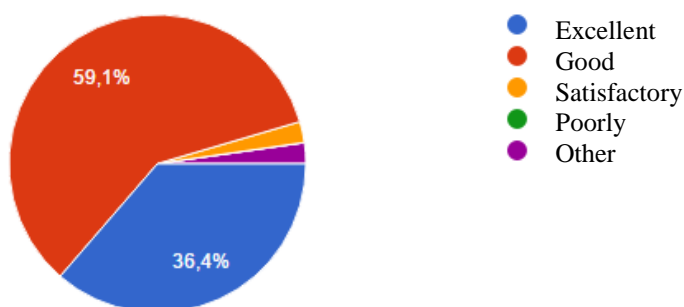


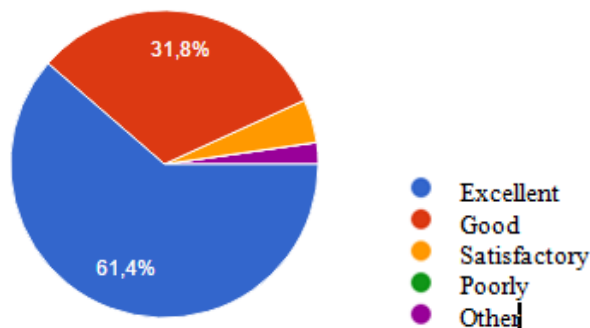
## Baltic Sea Coastal Tourism Conference

### Conference results

**How do you evaluate the informative part (reports) of the conference?**



**How do you evaluate the organizational part of the conference (communication, transportation, catering, hiking, dinner etc.)?**



**From the organizational point of view, what would have you done differently?**

Everything satisfied me, the conference venue was perfect, we had a place to park our car, we managed to find everything.

The conference was excellent from all aspects. Well organized, planned until very last detail, elegantly and appealingly overviewed and managed.

Transfers and communication before the conference could have been better.

Everything seemed very well-planned.

If there isn't an interpretation, I would have asked lecturers to make presentation in English, not in German or similarly.

Everything satisfied me.

Everything is ok. Maybe more intensive final of the 1st day, but you can never foresee how everything will go.

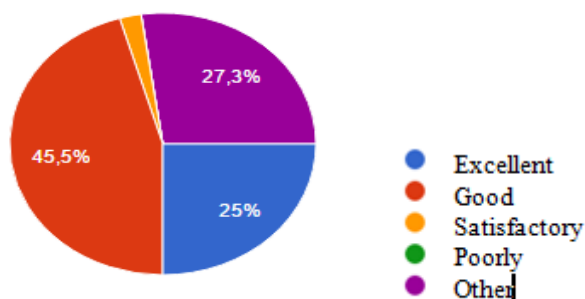


**Begin the hike to the dinner venue 30 minutes earlier.**

My colleague and I, we warned that due to traffic (in Riga) we will be few minutes late for the bus that took participants to Carnikava. But, when we were already close to the bus, we were refused to be waited for, instead suggesting us to take a train instead. After running to the train station, we found out that the next train to Carnikava departs at 10:18, but we had to be at this time already in Carnikava. But we didn't give up and took a taxi, as we knew that the information at the conference is very valuable and could be useful to us. And if you your job, then do your job. Anyways, we would have waited for our colleagues if we would have been in the bus. Furthermore, we aren't from Riga, and it took us a while to get there. Another minus was that conference organizers lacked communication with participants (with few exceptions). Also the tours would have been more interesting if there would have been a professional tour guide. Even in events as these it is interesting not only to see the place, but also to learn something more about it. Then again, I must emphasize that in Saulkrasti everything was much more professional – both the tour and the guiding. However, in Carnikava we had the opportunity to meet with another conference participant, who had an interesting story of Carnikava himself. He told us how and when the pedestrian bridge was built (we had missed this story, because we were driving in a taxi). Other facts we managed to find out by ourselves. Everything else from the organizational point of view was very good, thank you for that. It was well-worth visiting the conference. We were pleased to learn more about our foreign colleague's experience, but it would have been better not to devote so much attention to them. For example, in Carnikava by the map to the foreign guests it was told that "it is not so important for Latvians, most importantly that foreigners come".

**Discussions and brainstorming were well moderated, managed to stick with the schedule.**

**How do you evaluate practical part of the conference (visit to the planned hiking route sections in Carnikava and Saulkrasti)?**



**From the practical point of view, what would have you done differently?**

**Would have devoted more time so that the group wouldn't have to be split into two parts.**

**This part was well-planned, interesting, professionally educating, at the same time it facilitated creation of new contacts and promoted cooperation.**

**I think the speakers were very well divided before and after lunch.**

**I would have wished for a little more relaxed tempo...**

**I didn't quite understand the necessity to stop in Carnikava in the morning, because we only visited a**

pedestrian bridge.

To comply with the time schedule (e.g., by the Camikava train station).

A minor mistake with the set time at the Camikava train station, but everything else was according to the event format.

2nd day would have begun in Saulkrasti (if it would have been possible to combine it with the lunch venue)

Maybe small excursions?

Would have offered to visit some other sightseeing objects in Camikava, besides the pedestrian bridge (e.g., Manor park, church etc.).

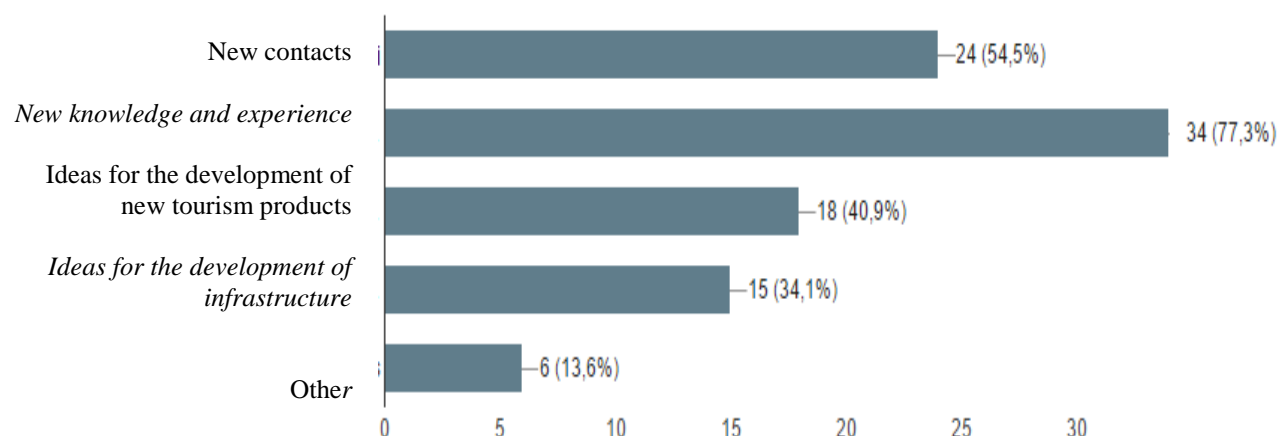
Nothing, even the weather was on our side. :)

Would have allocated more time, at least 3-4 hours for an educational hike.

Organized a more detailed excursion in Camikava, as it felt rather empty while walking over the bridge. And it would have been useful to divide the big group into two parts both in Camikava and Saulkrasti, but I understand that it was hard to forecast the number of participants. Catering by the Lilaste Lake really isn't at a good level.

Would have divided the group into parts as an example.

### What are your benefits from the conference participation?



Questions on the

planned

hiking route

along Baltic Sea Coastline in Latvia and Estonia

**Which hiking route logo draft seems most suitable to you?**

- Sunset
- Sunset
- Bird
- Bird or lighthouse. Seal looks dead...
- Bird, ideally with a backpack
- Bird-hiker
- Sunset in a sea.
- Bird as a hiker
- Sun in the sea
- Bird-hiker
- None of these, because ideas presented in March were better
- Seal, lighthouse, waves with sea
- Sea
- Hiking bird is the most suitable for a hiking trail, if we evaluate these logos. But maybe it's possible to make a new one, combining the bird with a background picture – waves or sunset.
- Running bird
- Bird – most connected with the coast, appealing, funny and most suitable for hiking theme.
- In my opinion these logos should be nicely joined into one.
- Bird or sea
- Sea and sun.
- Bird
- Seal
- Bird. At the same time it can be used as a direction sign.
- Weaves in two rows

**Which title you think is the most suitable for the hiking route along the coastline in English?**

- Baltic Walking
- Baltic Walking
- Baltic Walking
- Baltic Sea Trail
- Baltic Walking.
- Baltic sea Trail
- From Coast to Coast
- Amber road.
- Amber road.
- Baltic Coast Trail
- Free your mind
- Walk the Coast
- Baltic Coast Trail
- Baltic Walking

**Baltic coast trail**

**Walk the coast**

**Amber road**

**Free your mind**

**Baltic Coast Trail**

**Baltic Sea Trail**

**Baltic Sea Trail**

**Baltic Sea trail**

**Baltic Coast Trail**

**Baltic Coast Trail**

**Amber road**

**Baltic Walking**

**Baltic Coast Trail**

**Baltic Walking! Sounds of Baltic**

**Tipu - Tapu Baltic coast**

**From Coast to Coast**

**Baltic Sea trail**

**Amber road**

**Walk the Coast**

**Walk the Baltic Coast**

**Baltic Coast Trail**

**Baltic Coast trail**

**Sounds of Baltic**

**From coast to coast**

## **Recommendations for the development of the hiking route along the coastline**

**Don't give up!**

**Attract volunteers**

**Creation of a good map**

**It would be good if the route would be safe – I mean dogs. More places for leisure – picnic benches and tables.**

**To plan the route in cooperation with responsible state institutions and nature experts, to avoid crossing extremely rare and sensitive areas.**

**Signs to toilets and catering places, but not further than 1km from the coast.**

**Mobile application must be created.**

**Complicated question. It would be useful to take the best experience from Norway, Estonia, Slovakia, Austria and Spain.**

**Take into consideration what Liis told that part going through Riga will not be interesting and offer a transfer there.**

**To emphasize protection of dunes and forests, especially in *Jūrmala*.**

**1. To create the route as close as possible to the sea, by indicating in a map sightseeing objects, accommodation places and shops in the vicinity (traveller can choose himself where to get off from the route). 2. Avoid crossing big cities, when possible. 3. If that isn't possible, direct the route in a way that it avoids major traffic flow. 4. To foresee an option of detouring a city by using public transport.**

**Meaningful signs!**

Create connection points (info, services) with the EuroVelo, because we have just one coast for different types of travellers. Suggestion would be to cooperate. Cooperate with locals, get them involved in the project, receive from them suggestions and input. To cooperate with hiking organizations in Latvia. You have to act smart; so that people would have a feeling that it is their path. That they have created it, not „Lauku ceļotājs”. Currently the project more resembles a marketing campaign of „Lauku ceļotājs”.

To use Jūrmala as an example. People need to know how to get to train station or other meaningful points.

Work more on logos and slogans.

## Your comments/recommendations

Frequent signs to drinking water access points.

Please publish detailed information about the project and its activities, routes etc.

An emphasis must be put on nature preservation, educate people.

Passages over rivers must be built.

Great example can be found in Estonia – trail Oondo-Ikla stretching all over the country (370 km).

Thank you! Way to go to get passive local governments to get involved.

1. Main value of this trail is sea, therefore, I recommend not to get too far away from it. 2. A mobile application is a must.

Don't pay too much attention to sightseeing objects which aren't on the route.

I would suggest introducing a system in which people get a stamp, hand band or something similar, which would motivate people to walk the whole route. They motivate people to get involved. At the end give some diploma or some other notice of appreciation. It works.

First of all, compliments for your courageousness to initiate such a project. Lithuania was left out, but don't worry about that. Move on, call it a Baltic project and you'll find a way to cover the Lithuanian sector as well. And how to stretch the Estonian sector until Estonian border. I hope to see this project succeed. So that it would encourage people to hike, irrespective of age, season. I would advise to cooperate and get local people involved with their stories, suggestions, input.

Let's establish Latvian Ramblers Association, as there are many organizations organizing hikes and assembling people who hike. Let's unite to create something meaningful and sustainable. So that everyone could contribute.

During the hike it is important to be able to identify your location and understand the infrastructure nearby.

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