

### Lauku Ceļotājs

www.celotajs.lv

## How to plan and monitor long distance walking trails

By the president of the association Ms. Asnate Ziemele





### **About Latvian Rural Tourism association**

- Established in 1993;
- Today: ca 350 members rural tourism entrepreneurs;
- Main aims:
  - » To develop & promote rural areas & sustainable tourism there;
  - » To represent & protect interests of its members on a national & international level;
  - » To control the quality of the environment and tourism services;
  - » To take a part in the development of legislation documents connected to tourism, development of rural areas and nature protection





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### Hiking - sustainable way of traveling

- Minimal Carbon Footprint
- Traveling to less known areas
   off seazon preventing
   overtourism
- Beneficial to the **local** communities
- Protecting and enhancing opportunities for the future
- Valuing the environment and looking after natural resources



### Motivating hikers to be sustainable

- Use re-usable water bottles / buy products with less packaging
- Carry your trash with you
- Leash your dogs
- Keep quiet and do not disturb the wild animals
- Pay attention to
   environment
   protection notices,
   stick to the path
   Use local services and
   accommodations



### Forest trail Project

- Project "Long distance cross-border hiking trail "The Forest trail" is partfinanced by the European Union and European Regional Development Fund Central Baltic Programme.
- Ouration: 01.04.2019.-30.06.2021.
- 9 project partners from LV and EE
- Goal to develop a sustainable cross-border tourist attraction, promoting great biodiveristy, beautiful forest landscapes, national parks and protected areas, meadows that represent ancient landscapes, birdwatching, mushrooming and hiking.
- Financial support of EU programme Central Baltic programme: € 960 418
   Partners contribution: € 255 301





## Forest Trail ~1050km from Riga – Tallinn <a href="https://baltictrails.eu/forest/">https://baltictrails.eu/forest/</a>





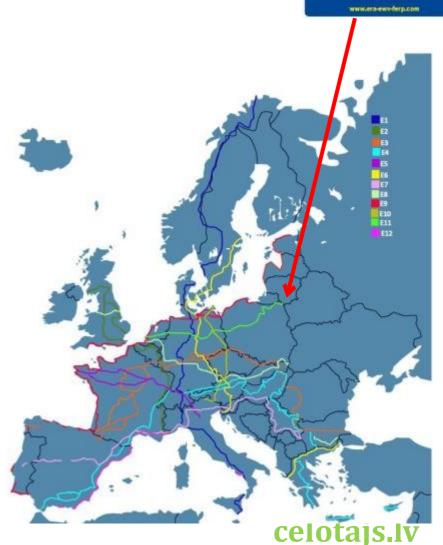
## Forest trail – Northern part of E11 long-distance hiking path

- Currently the trail is 2,070 km long
- E11 crosses The Netherlands,
   Germany and Poland
- Membership in ERA European Ramblers Association

https://www.era-ewv-ferp.org







### Project approach

- 3 crucially important stakeholder groups: local people, local tourist service providers, local municipalities
- Identification of the best route itinerary relying on local knowledge
- Inspection trips, open for public
- Trail marking, implementation of small scale infrastructure
   elements
- Marketing and IT solutions
  - Trade fares and travel fares

### **Trail inspection hikes**







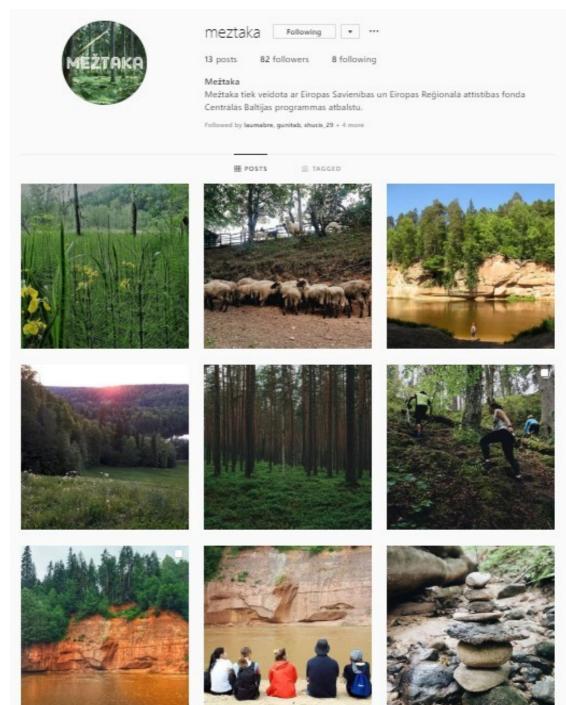




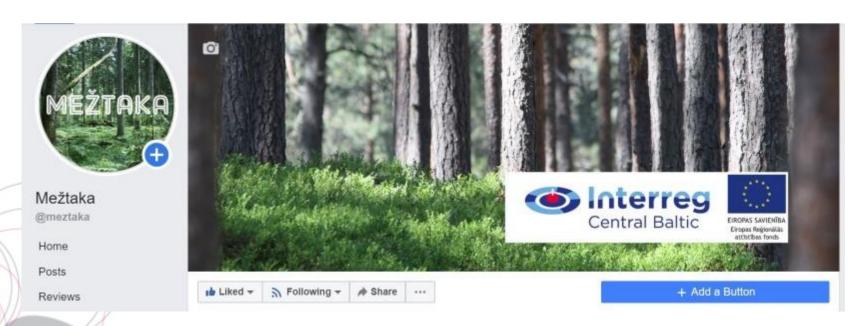


# Active social media profiles – important for the personal communication.





### Social media – Facebook www.facebook.com/meztaka www.facebook.com/metsamatkarada



## Previous experience with Baltic Coastal Hiking trail coastalhiking.eu





- Latvia -Estonia
- 1200 km
- Sandy & stony beaches, cliffs & outcrops;
- **700 sights**
- Historic coastal towns, fishermen villages & 2 capitals- Riga, Tallinn
- Complete tranquillity & remoteness <-> areas with cafes, pubs & souvenir shops







### Infrastructure















## Involving service providers, locals: handbook, network seminars, study tours, workshops FRIENDLY

- Who is the long-distance hiking target audience?
- What are the hikers needs?
- How to create a new product for the hikers?
- How to organise group tours?



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### Examples of the printed materials: >>> Baltic Coastal Hiking tourist brochure

- The brochure introduces the Baltic Coastal Hiking route along the Baltic Sea coast between Riga and Tallinn.
- Available in 5 languages (LV, EE, RU, DE, ENG)





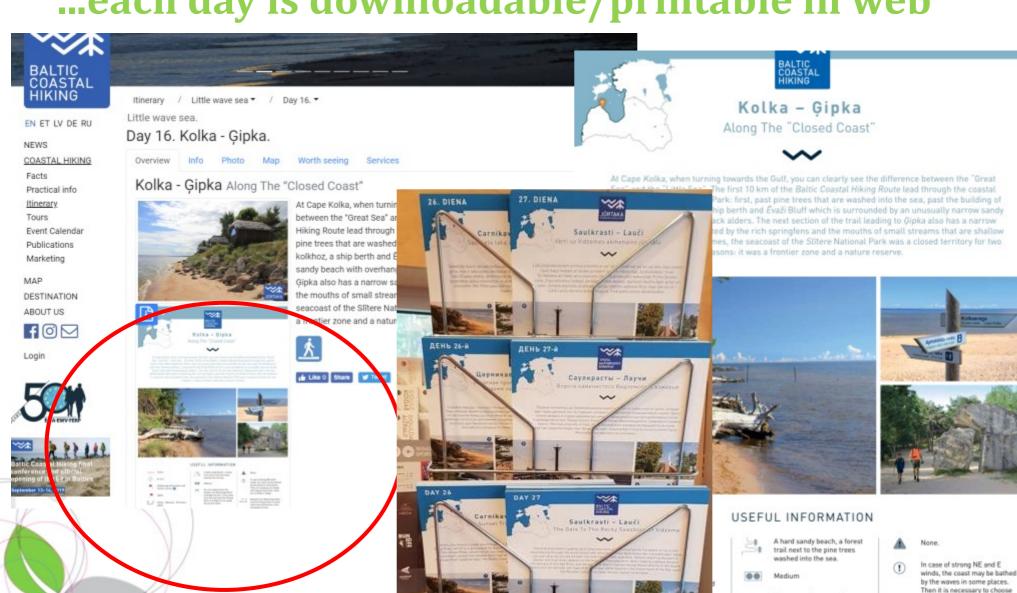


## Examples of the printed materials: >>> Baltic Coastal Hiking Guide

- 60 one-day routes described in detail, including accommodations, services and practical information.
- Available in 5 languages (LV, EE, RU, DE, ENG)



### ...each day is downloadable/printable in web



I ♥ Saulkrasti

Between the Meinsilupe River and the Pilsupe River a forest road-trail stretches for 6 km

alternative forest trails. There

are no ATMs in Kolka.

You can wade across the

brooks, the Melnsilupe River

la bridge around 1,3 km away from the seal and the Pilsupe

River la bridge 0,3 km awayl

during low water.

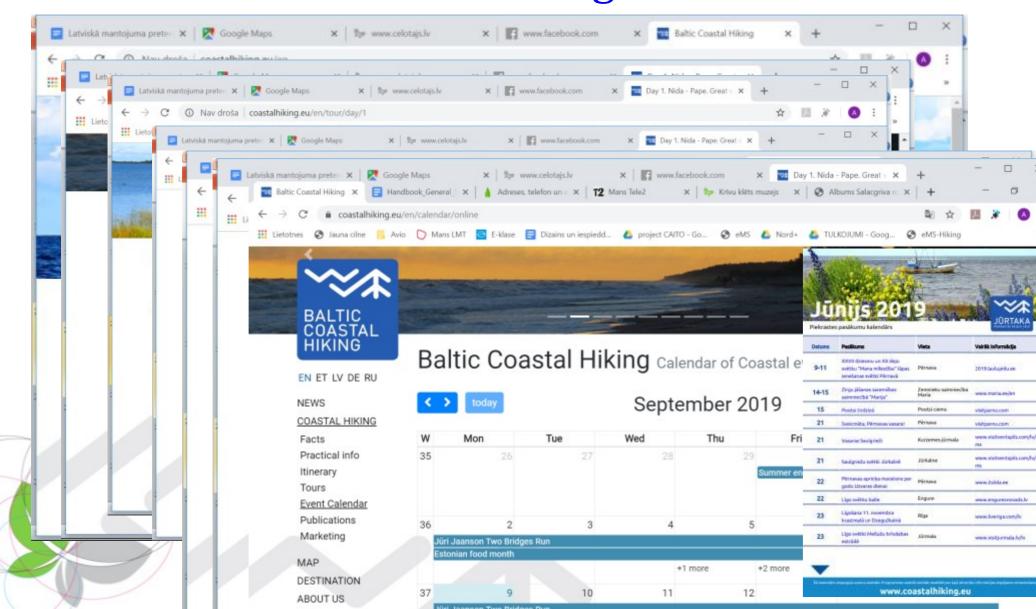
## Examples of the printed materials: >>> Baltic Coastal Hiking Tour Manual

- 15 hiking tours for one and multiple days (up to 16 days) in Latvia and Estonia, available in 2 languages (DE, ENG)
- Includes the most interesting and scenic coastal areas of Latvia and Estonia
- Manual provides schematic tour map, information about the mileage, level of difficulty, outstanding sightseeing objects, practical information about the road surface and starting / returning points.



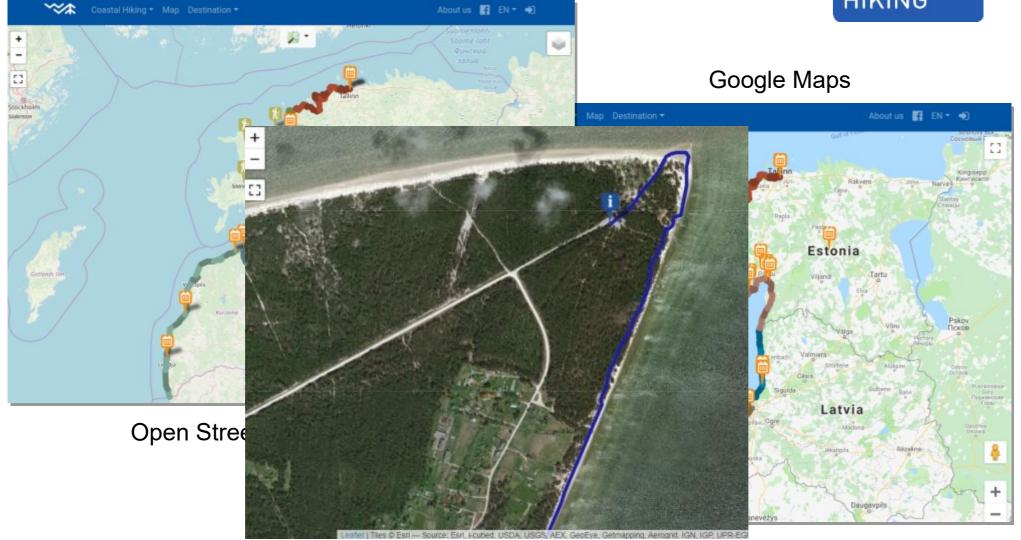


## Baltic Coastal Hiking trail digital coastalhiking.eu



## Open Street Map & Gogle maps use for coastalhiking.eu





### **Trade fairs**



### E9 on Wikipedia

#### E9 European long distance path

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The E9 European long distance path, E9 path or European Coastal Path (French: Sentier Européen du Littoral) is one of the European long-distance paths, running for 5,000 kilometres (3,100 mi) from Cabo de São Vicente in Portugal to Narva-Jõesuu in Estonia.

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Direct connection with the Coastalhiking.eu website

### Hiking Waymarked Trails (Open Street Map data)























