

Eesti Maaülikool

# Forest trail pilot testing Estonia. EMÜ

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EUROPEAN UNION  
European Regional Development Fund



Interreg  
Central Baltic



# Tested stretches (08.10-30.10.2020)

- Although we had to select 2 options we did more:
- day 17 (Haanja (Suur-Munamägi) - Tsiistre);
- day 20 (Kolodavitsa - Värskä): Säpina- Kolodovitsa /day 19 (Kolodovitsa - Obinita)
- day 34 (Kuremäe - Vasavere)
- day 41 (Eisma - Oandu),
- day 46 (Tsitre – Kaberneeme)

REASONS: COVID19 – spreading the groups





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ESTONIAN UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES  
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Report of the pilot testing of ForestTrail hiking route in Estonia

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# The report

41 pages

54 photos and screenshots

All trail stretches analysed



# Main conclusions and recommendations (1)

## MARKING

- The changes from RMK trail to FT must be carefully marked in nature and must be addressed in the descriptions on WEB clearly.
- The markings, done in autumn or winter could be useless, as they are made not considering the green parts of the trees, bushes and tall vegetation. They will be invisible during vegetation period. These markings should be checked in early summer!
- The markings on birches are badly visible because of the white colour of birch bark.
- Markings on small, dead, branchy trees should be avoided in strategic places, as their marking may not be visible or can disappear.







# Main conclusions and recommendations (2)

## COMFORT AND SAFETY

- The younger generation is expecting DCs to be available on such trails for hygiene and ecological reasons. If there will be none, this should be addressed in the WEB descriptions delicately.
- On long stretches in remote and wild areas the benches or logs to sit on and rest would be welcome, especially with wet and cold weather, when you wouldn't sit on ground to rest.
- The trails, running on public roads (especially narrow and curvy ones) will be a real threat to hikers, as local drivers are driving with high speed, are not slowing down and are not expecting hikers. These stretches should have special warnings on the WEB!

# Main conclusions and recommendations (3)

## NAVIGATION and WEB

- The instructions for downloading and using the apps for different devices must be highlighted on the WEB and made available easily for hikers. Users tips would be good idea.
- The WEB should contain basic information about technical issues of the stretches – difficult paths, slippery parts, steep slopes, dangerous crossings and special needs for footwear and / or clothing. The beginners are not aware of these issues and are not prepared.

# Main conclusions and recommendations (4)

## MAINTENANCE AND COOPERATION

- While FT owners will keep their parts controlled and inspected regularly, the same should be expected from RMK. Their markings and trail safety may vary a lot.
- FT owners should inspect the trail regularly, as there may be clear-cuts and other forestry or land use interventions, removing the marked trees or markings unexpectedly.



# There are...

- Specific comments and recommendations in the report text
- Outlined pleasant or unpleasant experiences and feelings

**Questions, comments?  
Thank You!**

**Eesti Maaülikool**