

Current situation in Latvia

Experience of Kurzeme planning region and Riga planning region by Aija Neilande (KPR) and Edgars Ražinskis (RPR)



Who takes responsibility for further hiking trail management in Latvia?

- NGO,
- private commercial organisation,
- public organisation (state, municipalities),
- one of the existing organisations?

Baltic Coastal Hiking route and Forest trail in Kurzeme is our responsibility as we received funding for development.

But already within the development for some sections we got interested **fans/volunteers**, which are ready to keep an eye on the route section.

Also entrepreneurs recognize the route, and if something wrong near his/her house let know local tourism people, which whom we have very good contacts, and then we can know.



What could be the financing model and funding sources for trail maintenance?

- Membership and donations?
First steps
- EU project funding?
Development not maintenance
- Public funding from state institutions?
LVM, environmental agencies
- Commercial services?
More visitors - bigger interest to support - private sector, service providers, event/hike organizers.
- Combined funding?
EU money, local Municipalities - it's already happening



Do local businesses gain any benefits from hiking tourists?



Forest trail in Lithuania - group of 14 persons/weekend:
300 EUR for accommodation (1,2 nights);
840 EUR (20 EUR/dinner x 2 evenings+lunch)
Total ~ 1140 Euro
During off season, is it small or big money?

What is added value from hiking tourism?

- Most important - **health** of nation - both - physical and psychological
- **Being together** with friends, family or escaping from those and being by own
- **Knowing more** our nature , what values we have,
- Hiking trails is also an answer to question - **How to sell the nature** - forests, sea etc.
- Traveling in **off season**

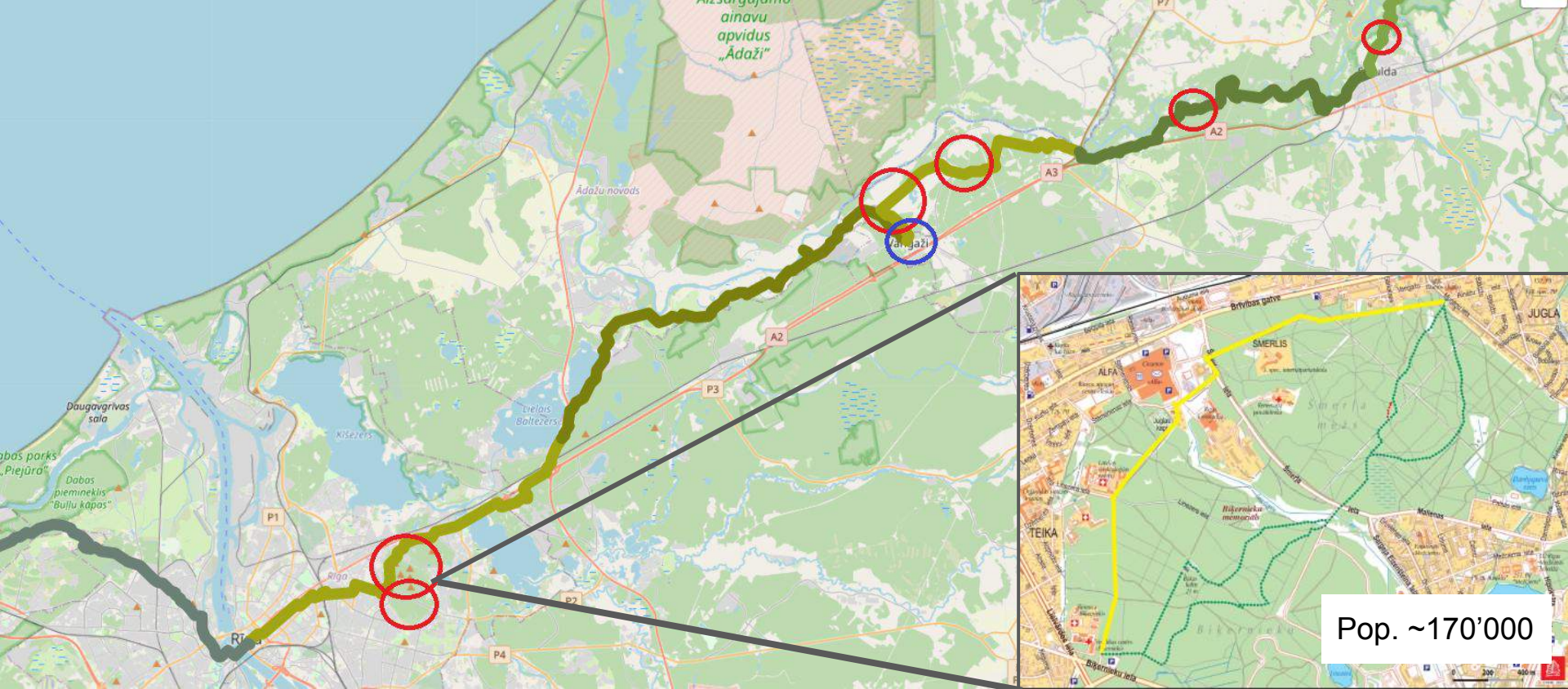


Resistance on the Forest Trail



RIGA
PLANNING
REGION



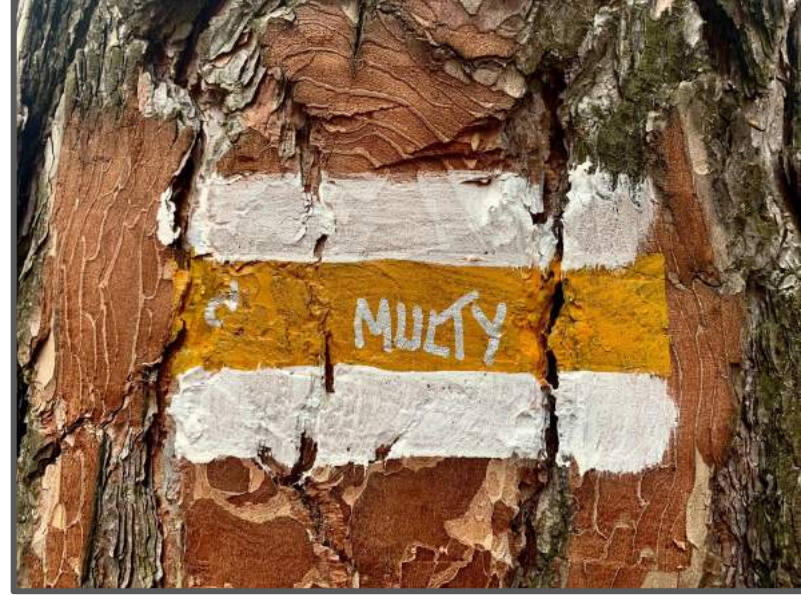


Sections of the trail where the stands or markings were damaged

Political spectrum of communication

- Environmentalists (what this tree has done to you?);
- Politics (Lukashenko and anarchy);
- Private ownership;
- **Quality of Infrastructure and safety**

Forest trail as a litmus test of public opinion.



Forest trail in the mass media

Stories about places and people.

mikroklimatu.



Rīgas plānošanas reģiona teritorijā iet četri garās distances pārgājiena "Mežtakas" maršruta posmi: Rīga – Baltezers, Sigulda – Murjāni, Baltezers – Vangaži, Vangaži – Murjāni. "Mežtaka" ir garās distances pārgājēju maršruts, kas sākas Rīgā un turpinās līdz Tallinai. "Mežtakas" aptuveni 1050 kilometrus garais maršruts ir sadalīts 50 atsevišķos vienas dienas gājiena posmos pa aptuveni 20 kilometriem dienā. "Mežtaka" tiek veidota projektā "Garās distances pārrobežu pārgājēju maršruts "Mežtaka", kas tiek realizēts ar Eiropas Savienības un Eiropas Reģionālā attīstības fonda Centrālās Baltijas programmas atbalstu.

Rīgas plānošanas reģiona teritorijā iet četri garās distances pārgājiena "Mežtakas" maršruta posmi: Rīga–Baltezers, Baltezers–Vangaži, Vangaži–Rāmkalni, Rāmkalni–Sigulda. "Mežtaka" ir garās distances pārgājēju maršruts, kas Latvijā stiepjas 674 kilometru garumā. "Mežtaka" tiek veidota projektā "Garās distances pārrobežu pārgājēju maršruts "Mežtaka", kas tiek realizēts ar Eiropas Savienības un Eiropas Reģionālā attīstības fonda Centrālās Baltijas programmas atbalstu.



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TV24
March 9 ·
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PROBLEM AND OPPORTUNITY



Trail marking events involving children from Sigulda and local communities from Vangaži.