

## Long distance cross-border hiking trail “The Forest Trail”. (Forest Trail)



Programme Priority: P2 Sustainable use of common resources

Programme Specific Objective: 2.1. Natural and cultural resources developed into sustainable tourist attractions

Sub-programme: Central Baltic

Duration: 01.04.2019 - 31.12.2021

Total funding: 1.215.720 EUR

ERDF funding: 960.419 EUR ERDF

Project Summary:

Forest trail project aims at presenting hikers the opportunities that Latvian and Estonian forests have to offer them and to show them how to enjoy the forest life - nature processes, landscapes, animals, birds, trees, mushrooms, etc., through a guidebook, an ad hoc website, and a mobile application. The project will also make sure to mark all of the country hotels and guest houses conveniently located along the trails. The route is split up into approximately 50 one-day routes, each of them around 20 kilometers long.

The Forest Trail project will cross protected landscape areas, two national parks – Gauja and Lahemaa, will pass through the land of Seto people with their authentic folk heritage, and will wind along the Lake Peipsi. Riga and Tallinn as start or endpoints will make the Forest Trail easily accessible to foreign guests: it will be linked with European long-distance hiking path.

## Map of Partners

### Partners

Lead Partner

## Latvijas lauku t?risma asoci?cija Lauku Ce?ot?js

Country: LV

[www.countryholidays.lv](http://www.countryholidays.lv) [1]

Partner budget: 259.638 EUR

Amount of ERDF funding: 205.114 EUR ERDF

Project Partners

## Vidzemes PI?nošanas Re?ions

Country: LV

[www.vidzeme.lv](http://www.vidzeme.lv) [2]

Partner budget: 141.375 EUR

Amount of ERDF funding: 111.686 EUR ERDF

## R?gas PI?nošanas Re?ions

Country: LV

[www.rpr.gov.lv](http://www.rpr.gov.lv) [3]

Partner budget: 149.000 EUR

Amount of ERDF funding: 117.710 EUR ERDF

## MTÜ Setomaa Turism

Country: EE

[www.visitsetomaa.ee](http://www.visitsetomaa.ee) [4]

Partner budget: 157.367 EUR

Amount of ERDF funding: 124.320 EUR ERDF

## MTÜ Peipsimaa Turism

Country: EE

[www.visitpeipsi.com](http://www.visitpeipsi.com) [5]

Partner budget: 163.777 EUR

Amount of ERDF funding: 129.384 EUR ERDF

## **Dabas aizsardzības pārvalde**

**Country:** LV

[www.daba.gov.lv](http://www.daba.gov.lv) [6]

**Partner budget:** 107.345 EUR

**Amount of ERDF funding:** 84.803 EUR ERDF

## **AS Latvijas Valsts Meži**

**Country:** LV

<https://www.lvm.lv> [7]

**Partner budget:** 21.788 EUR

**Amount of ERDF funding:** 17.213 EUR ERDF

## **MTÜ Eesti Maaturism**

**Country:** EE

<http://www.maaturism.ee> [8]

**Partner budget:** 165.430 EUR

**Amount of ERDF funding:** 130.690 EUR ERDF

## **MTÜ Ökokuller**

**Country:** EE

[www.facebook.com/VisitLahemaa](http://www.facebook.com/VisitLahemaa) [9]

**Partner budget:** 50.000 EUR

**Amount of ERDF funding:** 39.500 EUR ERDF

Associated Partners

## **Põhja-Eesti Turism**

**Country:** EE

## **Results**

## Expected results

## Achieved results

Project result in category - Joint tourist attraction

### Forest Trail created a long distance hiking route

The Forest Trail project created a long distance hiking route. It leads through the most forested lands, regional, nature and national parks of Estonia and Latvia. The total length of the Forest Trail Northern part approximately 1060 km.

The route is split in ca 20 km sections or hiking days. Each day of the Forest trail has a description, maps and downloadable GPX routes - start and end points, how long the expected walk will be, what the road surface is, and what will be worth seeing along the way. Hikers can read more information about the most interesting and significant places, landscapes, nature landmarks ??and see the photo, so as not to miss the views on the way, also find information on places to eat, buy water and snacks, and also spend the night.

The developed Forest trail route in the Central Baltic project is connected to the southern route (from the Lithuanian / Polish border through Kurzeme to Riga) developed in the Latvia-Lithuania Interreg programme project. Both trails will be part of the E11 route of the European long distance hiking trail network by ERA – European Ramblers' Association. The total length of the Forest Trail in all three Baltic states will be more than 2000 km, and the trail will include all forest types and wildlife features typical of the Baltic States.

Name in Latvian: *Mežtaka*

Name in Estonian: *Metsa matkarada*

[Direct link to the route guidebook \(138 MB!\)](#) [10].

More information about the route: <https://baltictrails.eu/en/forest> [11]

Materials in all languages can be downloaded from the project website: <https://baltictrails.eu/lv/forest/publications> [12]

Project page in database

[Long distance cross-border hiking trail "The Forest Trail"](#). [13]

At a glance

- Over 1000 km of detailed hiking trails
- Easy approach
- Daily trips

Tags

[Cultural Heritage and Arts](#) [14]

[Tourism](#) [15]

## Project Visibility

### Social media links

[Forest Trail Facebook page in Estonian](#) [16]

[Forest Trail Facebook page in Latvian](#) [17]

[Project Webpage](#) [11]

[Instagram @meztaka](#) [18]

[Project partner webpage \(celotajs.lv - description, news, publicity\)](#) [19]

### Other media visibility

[Bižernieki forest will be included in the long-distance cross-border hiking route "Mežtaka" – Travel – Planet \(2020\)](#) [20]

[Valmib uus Eesti ja Läti vaheline matkarada](#) [21]

[Valmib uus Eesti ja Läti vaheline matkarada](#) [22]

[JURIS SMALINSKIS: „Lahemaa on kõige huvitavam koht Eestis.“](#) [23]

[VIDEOLUGU ? Lõuna-Eesti liitub Euroopa jalameeste peateega](#) [24]

[Lõuna-Eesti liitub Euroopa jalameeste peateega](#) [25]

[Noskaidroti lab?kie jaunie t?risma objekti: pirmaj? viet? – "Mežtaka" \(11.12.2020\)](#) [26]

[Latvia's top new tourism product 2020 announced: 1st place awarded to Forest Trail \(23.12.2020\)](#) [27]

[Explore the forests of the Baltics on a new cross-border hiking trail \(lonelyplanet.com; 16 March, 2021\)](#) [28]

### Project videos

[https://youtu.be/Wu-QDFgz\\_p4](https://youtu.be/Wu-QDFgz_p4)

<https://youtu.be/9L4UPeMwnas>

**Source URL:**<https://database.centralbaltic.eu/printview/98>

### Links

[1] <http://www.countryholidays.lv> [2] <http://www.vidzeme.lv> [3] <http://www.rpr.gov.lv> [4] <http://www.visitsetomaa.ee> [5] <http://www.visitpeipsi.com> [6] <http://www.daba.gov.lv> [7] <https://www.lvm.lv> [8] <http://www.maaturism.ee> [9] <http://www.facebook.com/VisitLahemaa> [10] [https://cb2014.centralbaltic.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Guidebook\\_Meztaka\\_en.pdf](https://cb2014.centralbaltic.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Guidebook_Meztaka_en.pdf) [11] <https://baltictrails.eu/en/forest> [12] <https://baltictrails.eu/lv/forest/publications> [13] <https://database.centralbaltic.eu/project/98> [14] <https://database.centralbaltic.eu/tags/cultural-heritage-and-arts> [15] <https://database.centralbaltic.eu/tags/tourism> [16] <https://www.facebook.com/metsamatkarada/> [17] <https://www.facebook.com/meztaka/> [18] <https://www.instagram.com/meztaka/> [19] <https://www.celotajs.lv/en/project/19/project> [20] <https://www.archynewsy.com/bikernieki-forest-will-be-included-in-the-long-distance-cross-border-hiking-route-meztaka-travel-planet/> [21] <https://www.err.ee/972015/valmib-uus-eesti-ja-lati-vaheline-matkarada> [22] <https://www.postimees.ee/6757261/valmib-uus-eesti-ja-lati-vaheline-matkarada> [23] <https://sonumitooja.ee/juris-sma%C2%ADlins%C2%ADkis-la%C2%ADhe%C2%ADmaa-on-koi%C2%ADge-hu%C2%ADvi%C2%ADta%C2%ADvam-koht-ees%C2%ADtis/> [24] <https://lounapostimees.postimees.ee/6849951/louna-eesti-liitub-euroopa-jalameeste-peateega> [25] <https://lounapostimees.postimees.ee/6850628/louna-eesti-liitub-euroopa-jalameeste-peateega> [26] <https://www.delfi.lv/turismagids/latvija/noskaidroti-labakie-jaunie-turisma-objekti-pirmaja-vieta-meztaka.d> [27] <https://www.celotajs.lv/en/news/item/view/1087> [28] <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/articles/forest-trail-hiking-baltics>