



Vidzeme Rural partnership "BRASLA"



Kehittämisyhdistys SILMU ry

Routes across the borders in Latvia and Finland

Travel report



"Routes across the borders in Latvia and Finland"

Finnish LAG SILMU exchange event in the area of the LAG BRASLA

August 21st-23rd

Program:

August 21

Finnish group started journey at 5:30 am from Porvoo city. The group travelled by boat from Helsinki to Tallinna and arrived at afternoon to Straupe area, beautiful hotel Igates Pils. First we had coffee and welcome speeches, after that there was short presentations about Latvia's and Finland's Leader groups. Anda Andrušaitė (Head of the Nature Education Centre) told us about Examples of natural trail tourism infrastructure in specially protected nature areas. We had presentations of next days trails and then we choose one trail of five we participate.



We got also lovely presentation of local Sightseeing by old gentleman (NAME?), territory of the Igate Castle, Museum. End of the day we had tasty dinner with our new friends in Igate castle.



August 22

On Thursday we had Nature trail testing in the area of the LAG BRASLA, leaded by specialists of the Tourism information centers. We visit the natural trails that we plan to improve as part of the cooperation project. The Mission was to give expert opinion and recommendations about the trails.

| No. | Time | Duration | Working groups | Content, address |
|--|--------------|----------|--|---|
| 9:00 Meeting (Igate castle), transfer to the nature objects | | | | |
| 1. | 9:30 – 13:30 | 4 h | I gr. | Inese Timmermane - Alojas county - Karogu karjera taka, Staicele parish; - Purezera dabas taka, Brīvzemnieku parish |
| II gr. | | | Toms Treimanis – Kocēni county - Zilākalna dabas takas, Zilaiskalns parish; - Sietiņiezis un dabas taka, Vaidava parish (Gauja National park) | |
| III gr. | | | Ilze Millere / Ingus Evertovskis – Limbaži county - Augstrozes Lielezera dabas taka; - Lielezera dabas taka, Limbaži; | |
| IV gr. | | | Sarmīte Kauliņa – Krimulda county - Avotu birzs dabas takas, Lēdurga parish; - Lēdurgas Dendroparkas, Lēdurga parish | |
| V gr. | | | Rudīte Vasile, Eva Meijere – Pārgauja county - Riebiņu ezera dabas taka, Straupe parish - Walking path in the historical center of Straupe (Hanse town) | |
| 30 min transfer to Igate | | | | |
| 14:00 - 15:00 Lunch in Igate castle | | | | |
| 2. | 15:00-17:00 | 2 h | Working groups prepare for presentations (30 min) 5 groups x up to 20 min = 1h40 min - presentations of their assessment and proposals for improving nature trails. (On paper +someone needs to take notes) | |
| From 18:00 Optional: Ferry crossing river Gauja in Līgatne, Nets parks in Līgatne, dinner in cafe Zeit, transfer back to hotel | | | | |

Group I - Alojas county - Teemu and Juha



Group II - Kocēni county Karoliina ja Noora



Group III - Limbaži county – Pertti ja Heli



Group IV - Krimulda county - Pirkko



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Group V - Pārgauja county – Margareta ja Tommi





In the evening we explored the Gauja River Valley (452 km long and 81 meters deep) by driving through the Sigulda city. Sigulda has the Green City area, a really lush environment. Along the way we explored many different castles from the bus and saw the Green Way. There was a basket lift across the river and there was also a bungee jumping opportunity in the area.

Within the area of the National Park was the Hotel Zeit which was a fine and personal hotel, with 9 different rooms, each room was decorated differently: the dreamer's room, the worker's (quite similar as wooden workers dwelling area, builded in 1920's in Helsinki) and the gardener's room

and the guests had a common small kitchen. The building was an old helmet factory and in the vicinity was a workers' residence, which was circled by bus. The hotel had a Seminar and Concert Hall, a very versatile building. There is art exhibition and a playground for children. The hotel is run by three couples and they started two years ago with a café, expanded the network into a park and then built hotel rooms. Entrepreneurs wanted to expand the company. We had a lovely dinner in Cafe Zeit outside on the terrace. Next to terrace was a climbing park and some participants took a closer look at it.



August 23

On Friday we travelled to Limbaži county to visit Tourist information center. We got nice presentation of Old Fire Depot and history of Latvia machinery.



Next we visited to Katvari Lake Park, Mini Zoo where lovely entrepreneur told us about her tourism business and horse breeding.



Business Support center (and library) we got presentation about the center's idea, history and possibilities for entrepreneurs of Aloja area. Lake near Business center has floating islands and we saw a film about the magical movement.



The center has also an interesting machine, which performed land shapes and variations of altitude with sand and colours.



| No. | Time | Duration | Content, address |
|-----|---------------|---|---|
| | 9:00-9:15 | 15min (17 km) | Transfer from Igates castle, Vidriži parish, Limbaži county to Limbaži town |
| 1. | 9:15 – 9:45 | 30 min | Visit Tourism information center TIC, Old Fire Depot; Limbaži castle ruins |
| | 9:45-10:00 | 15 min (17 km) | road to Katvaru parish, Limbaži county, |
| 2. | 10:00-11:00 | 1h | Visit to Katvari Lake Park, Mini Zoo “Priedītes”, Katvari Parish, Limbaži Municipality; |
| | 11:00-11:25 | road to Aloja 25 min 28(km) | |
| 3. | 11:30-12:30 | 1h | Bussines Support center, library “SALA”, Liepu street 3, Ungurpils, Aloja parish, Aloja county Visit Ungurpils, lake and trolley trail (A.Hansons); Visit Bussines Support center, library “SALA” (I.Prauliņa); Disscussions, summary feedback, proposals for the future cooperation, another good examples... |
| | 12:30 – 13:30 | Coffee break /lunch, cafe “Mieriņš”, Kalēju street-7, Aloja | |
| | 13:30 | Ungurpils – Tallina | |
| | 4 h | (235 km) | |

At the end of our journey we had lunch in Aloja and after goodbyes we started our way home. Latvia was an enchanting country and participants from the Finnish group had deeper acquainted with the environment of Latvia. Many people will remember Latvia's mysterious forests, gardens and rocks. We noticed that good work had already been done in the countryside to develop the infrastructure of the routes. Hopefully we helped about developing the Latvian routes.

Participants of the meeting from Latvia: partners from the participating municipalities (TIC – Tourism information centers), development department planners, representatives of the LAG (local action group), associated experts from LVM (Latvian State forests), DAP (Nature Conservation Agency), VIA (Vidzeme University).

Participants of the meeting from Finland: project secretary of cultural tourism, tourism specialist and publicist in municipality Lapinjärvi, entrepreneur of routes and farm, guides and members of the board in the King's road association, leisure advisor, municipality Mäntsälä, secretary of environmental protection in Askola municipality, regional architect of municipalities, LAG SILMU project advisor.