



ERASMUS+ project

"EUMA - improvement of good governance of climbing and mountaineering in Europe"

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✓ **Mountain Trails Analysis**

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Mountain Trails Analysis

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1 Object of the project

Hiking is the oldest and most popular activity in nature and landscape. Hiking trails are the longest sports facilities in the world.

In this project, we want to focus on these trails and work out how they should be designed, how they should be marked, how they can be maintained and what infrastructure is necessary.

In the end, a guideline for action is to be created that can be applied to the whole of Europe.

2 Definition of European trails

Within this project, a trail is defined as a footpath:

- located in Europe
- in all landscapes (mountains, low mountain range, lowland)
- part of network of trails
- visible and clearly recognisable in the terrain
- part of working area of NGO
- that is physically marked with signs and signposts
- users have free access to the trails
- must be aligned with the local, regional, and national legislation

Including a list of exclusions:

- educational path
- trails run by national parks, local communities and state organisations
- approach trails which are not part of the NGO network

Final definition of trail

Walking, hiking and mountain trails are footpaths of public interest for the purpose of walking, running or climbing, are located in any kind of landscapes, are visible and clearly recognisable in the terrain, and are physically marked and signposted.

In Europe, walking, hiking and mountain trails are part of the network of trails under the umbrella of one of the two European NGOs: the European Union of Mountaineering Associations (EUMA) and the European Ramblers' Association (ERA).

Approved by Erasmus+ WG for trails on 25th of April 2022 and revised on 18th of May 2022.

Modified on 23rd of June 2022 by Erasmus+ WG for trails according to agreed comments from "1st Analysis Report of Erasmus+ project (WG trails)".

EUMA Presidium and ERA Board approved this document with comments on 31st of August 2022.

Final version approved by Erasmus+ WG for trails on 20th of September 2022.

3 Project phases

The project is divided into three phases:

3.1 Initial phase

The purpose of this phase is to describe (analyse) the actual situation for trails. That means identifying the EU scale of the issues, experience, good and bad practice, identifying possible ways of solution.

3.2 Strategy phase

The aim of this phase is to define a policy and strategy plan for improvement of governance of trails as well as communication and decision-making structures.

3.3 Implementation phase

Make the strategy and policy plan widely known among EUMA and ERA members as well as among other important stakeholders and make it also functional. That is why it is important to establish a basic structure for committees /working groups which will continue to be active in the concrete issues.

Links will be established between

- EUMA / ERA – national associations,
- EUMA / ERA – other stakeholders,
- EUMA / ERA – national federations,
- EUMA / ERA – EU
- National association – national network, consisting of clubs and regional bodies, as well as other stakeholder structures as sport, regional, environmental bodies.

4 Working group trails

EUMA members are working on the topic of trails under the leadership of ERA. They are supported by a representative of Charles University in EU policy analysis. In detail, these are (in alphabetical order):

Leader

Schuster, Helmut ERA European Ramblers' Association

Members

Aschaber, Andreas	OeAV	Austrian Alpine Club
Gareis, Nicolas	DAV	German Alpine Club
Harnochova, Jana	ERA	European Ramblers' Association
Jiroudkova, Petra	CHS	Czech Climbing Association
Kotnik, Katarina	PZS	Alpine Association of Slovenia
Latorre, Angelo	ERA	European Ramblers' Association
Mair, Hanspeter	DAV	German Alpine Club
Rotovnik, Bojan	EUMA	European Union of Mountaineering Associations
Seliger, Bogdan	PZS	Alpine Association of Slovenia
Simonovski, Simon	FPSM	Mountaineering Federation of North Macedonia
Stefanovski, Boban	FPSM	Mountaineering Federation of North Macedonia
Tomalova, Eliska	CUNI	Charles University Prague

5 Vision of European trails

At the very beginning of this project phase, we defined our visions of European trails.

Trails:

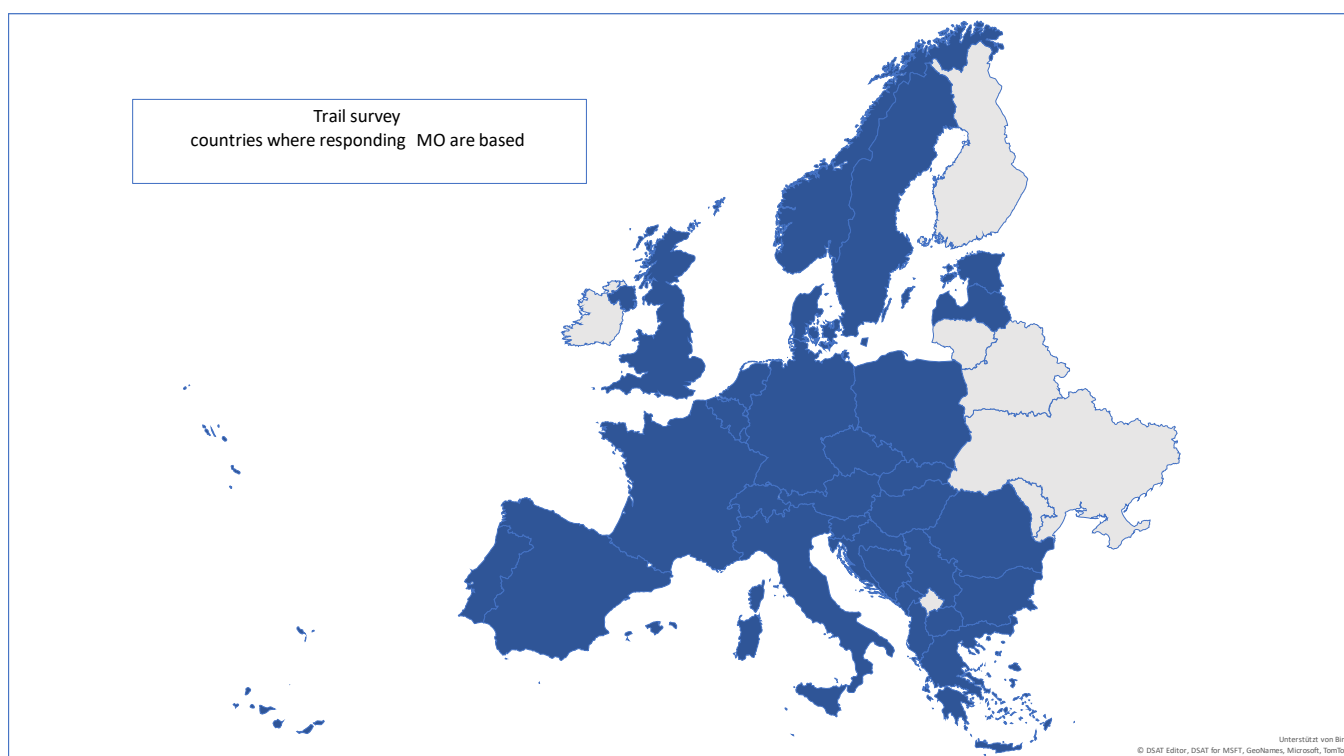
- are exclusively used by users on foot except where use by others is explicitly allowed.
In this case, hikers have priority over other users
- are allowed to run on any area (access right), e. g. state territory, communal territory, private territory, seaside, lakefront, riverside, with simultaneous consideration of environment and nature protection
- EU recognise trails as important infrastructure component for tourism and sport for all, provide sustainable livelihood for the local community
- signs and signposts are maintained at least once a year
- costs of maintenance and creation of new trails are covered by public funding

- trail keepers must be clearly specified, wherein voluntary engagement is preferred
- should not run on sealed roads with traffic
- a creation or interference with trails must get approval from national or regional hiking NGO
- exemption of liability for the landowners and trail keepers when hikers hurt themselves by using trails
- increase the self-responsibility of trail users
- creation of an official on-line European network of trails (collection of basic data), accessible for the large public
- sustainable development of mountain areas and trails in particular in accordance with the European Green Deal and the SDG

6 Status of the trails in Europe

6.1 Survey and their participants

To get an overview of the status of the trail network in Europe, its infrastructure, the way trails are managed and their place in politics and population, we launched a survey among the member organisations of EUMA and ERA. The evaluation was carried out on the basis on 37 questionnaires coming from 30 different countries. This is because for Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, and Switzerland two different associations handed in the questionnaire. In case of different numbers, the mean value was used.



6.2 Results in detail.

6.2.1 Trails data

All data mentioned in the report refer to the responses to our survey.

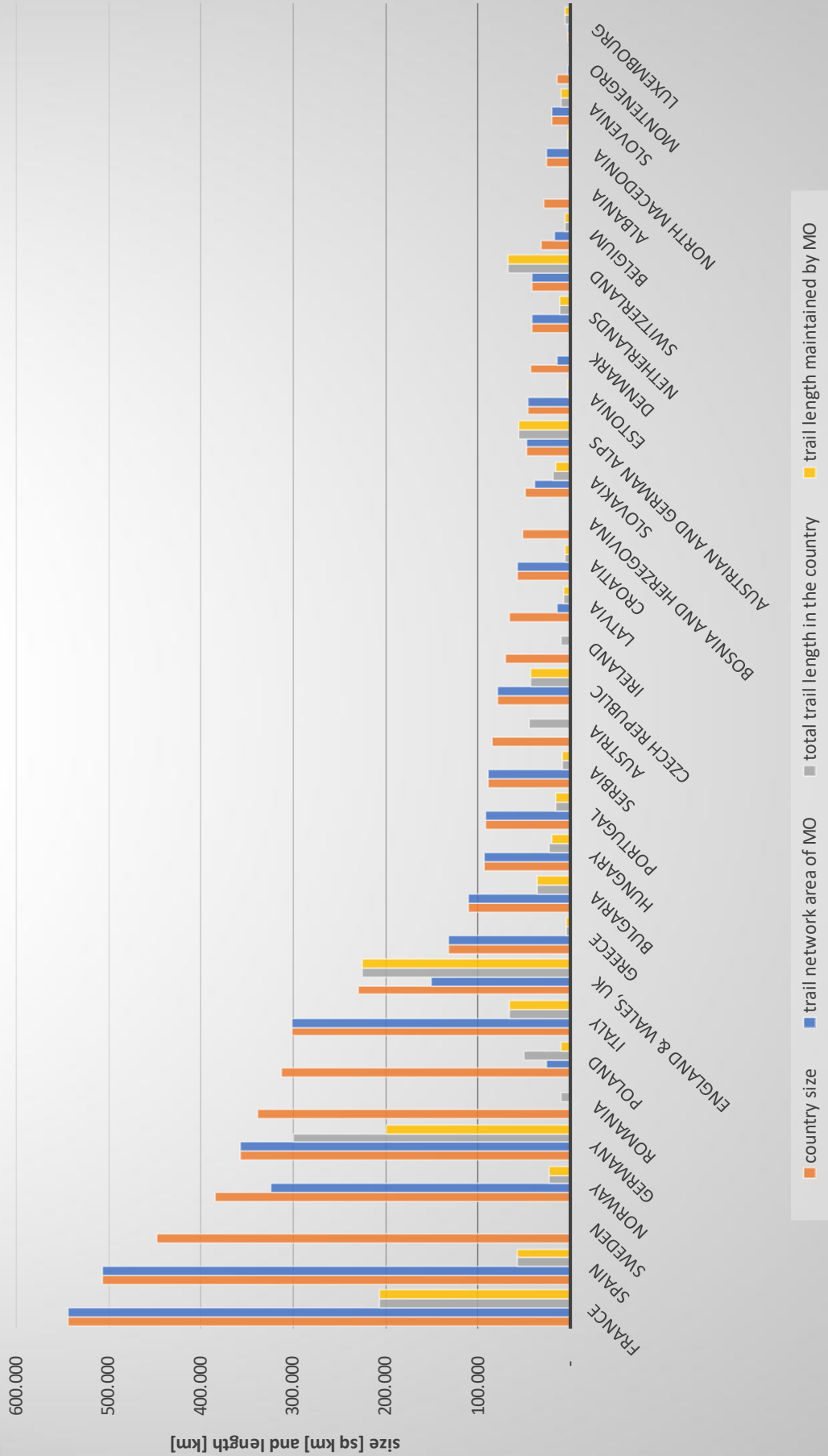
The total length of hiking trails in Europe is about 1,500,000 km.

The total length of hiking trails maintained by our MOs is 1,145,976 km in an area of 3,239,490 km².

On average, 350 m of trails run per square kilometre.

<i>Country</i>	<i>country size [km²]</i>	<i>trail network area of MO [km²]</i>	<i>total trail length in the country [km]</i>	<i>trail length maintained by MO [km]</i>
Albania	28.750	-	1.200	1.200
Austria	83.882	83.882	44.000	44.000
Austrian and German Alps	46.400	46.400	56.000	56.000
Belgium	30.688	17.000	5.200	5.200
Bosnia and Herzegovina	51.197		1.000	
Bulgaria	111.000	111.000	35.000	35.000
Croatia	56.594	56.594	5.819	5.819
Czech Republic	78.866	78.866	43.500	43.500
Denmark	42.900	-	14.000	260
England & Wales, UK	230.000	151.130	225.308	225.308
Estonia	45.000	45.000	3.000	3.000
France	543.939	543.939	206.000	206.000
Germany	357.582	357.582	300.000	200.000
Greece	132.000	132.000	4.200	4.200
Hungary	93.000	93.000	22.000	20.000
Ireland	70.273		9.546	
Italy	301.000	301.000	65.500	65.500
Latvia	65.300	13.600	6.770	6.770
Luxembourg	2.685	2.685	5.000	5.000
Montenegro	13.812	2.760	1.400	1.200
Netherlands	41.543	41.543	11.000	11.000
North Macedonia	25.713	25.713	2.800	2.800
Norway	385.207	323.808	22.000	22.000
Poland	312.696	25.000	49.756	10.000
Portugal	92.256	92.256	15.374	15.374
Romania	338.391		10.000	
Serbia	88.361	88.361	9.000	7.600
Slovakia	49.034	38.000	19.000	15.500
Slovenia	20.271	20.271	10.045	10.045
Spain	506.900	506.900	57.000	57.000
Sweden	447.435			
Switzerland	41.200	41.200	66.700	66.700
total	4.708.162	3.239.490	1.327.118	1.145.976

Network Area and Trail Length



6.2.2 Location of the trails

We expected that the effort required for creation, maintenance and management would vary depending on the level of the trails.

Therefore, participants of the survey were asked to divide their trails into three categories:

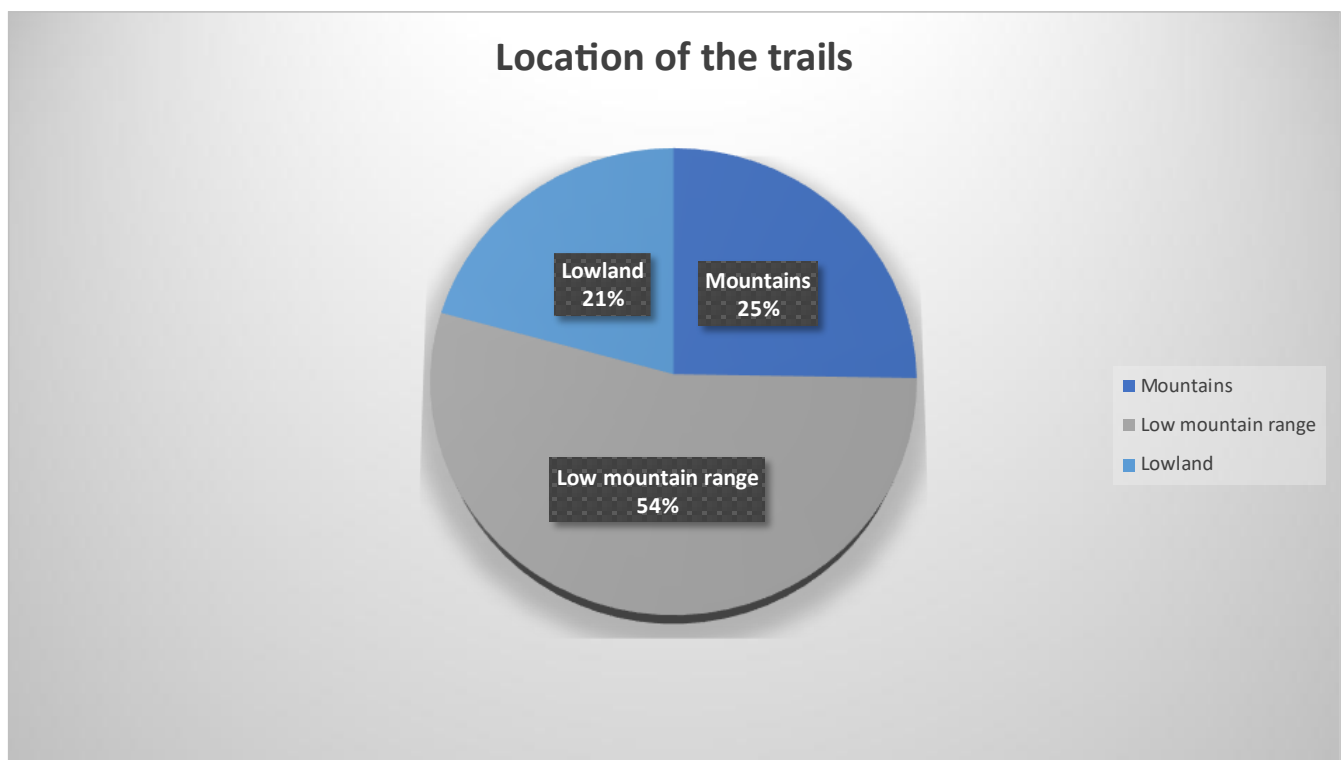
- low land
- low mountain range
- mountains

As there are no specifications for those categories, most of the participants roughly followed the categorisation:

lowland = < 200 m a.s.l.

low mountain range = 200 – 1.000 m a.s.l.

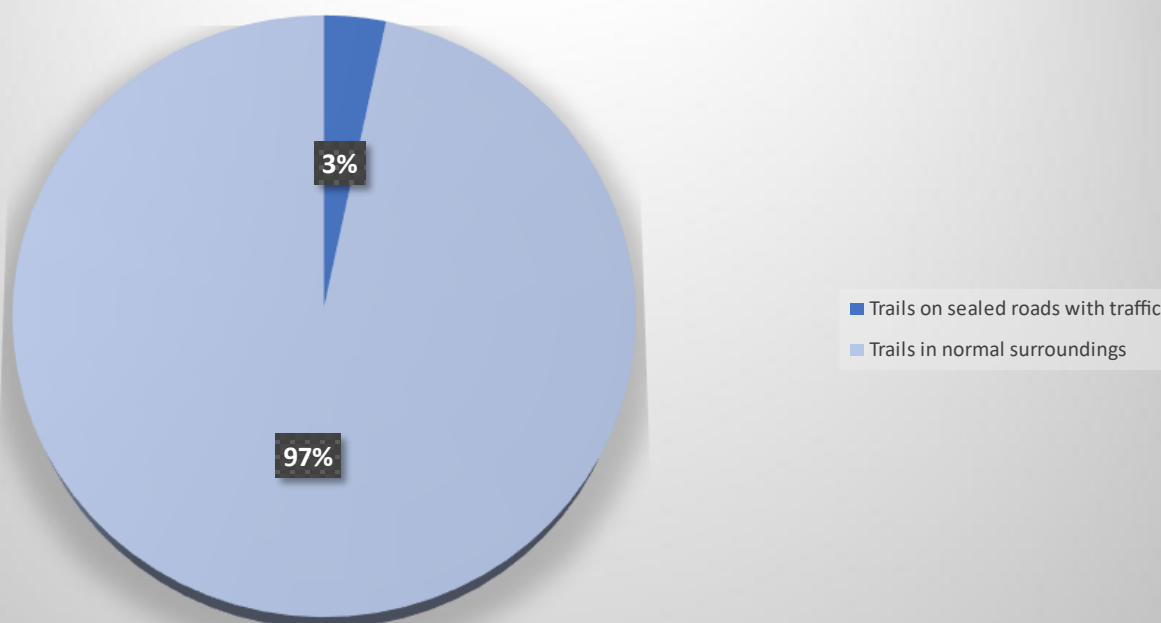
mountains = > 1.000 m a.s.l.



6.2.3 Trails on sealed roads with traffic

For hiking, one of the worst scenarios is using trails on sealed roads with traffic. A walker is the slowest and weakest road user, is therefore a permanent traffic block for other road users and is constantly in danger of being injured. In addition, he/she puts his/her health at risk through the noise and exhaust fumes of passing motor vehicles as well as through the stress, resulting from dangerous situations. In approx. 75% of the countries that participated in our survey, there are trail routes on sealed roads with traffic.

Share of trails on sealed roads with traffic



6.2.4 Via ferratas

Background

Historically, via ferratas developed from secured alpine trails stemming predominantly from the first world war. They served the simple goal to secure the path which led to strategic positions (summits, barracks, dugouts, shooting positions etc.) during war times. They remained until today and were constantly maintained while the idea expanded to different forms of via ferratas.

Definitions and types of via ferratas

Iron wire secured trails: A so-called railing rope is installed in order to overcome exposed trail sections with a high risk of falling. Iron brackets, steel pins and stairs are supportive. In this case, a trail is considered as mountain or alpine trail and no equipment is needed.

Via ferrata general definition

A via ferrata is an iron wire secured trail which follows a certain route for a longer period of time. Handles and steps assistances are statically installed to facilitate advancement in otherwise very difficult climbing terrain. Typically, a Y-shaped via ferrata kit with an energy absorber and two independent special carabiners are used.

Types of via ferratas

Classic alpine via ferrata

The route leads through alpine environment, rock faces, over ridges with generally a longer approach and usually ends on a summit. It forgoes for artistic elements like rope bridges, difficult passages, or overhanging sections. Iron brackets, steel pins and stairs and similar aids are used to overcome tricky passages.

Sports via ferrata

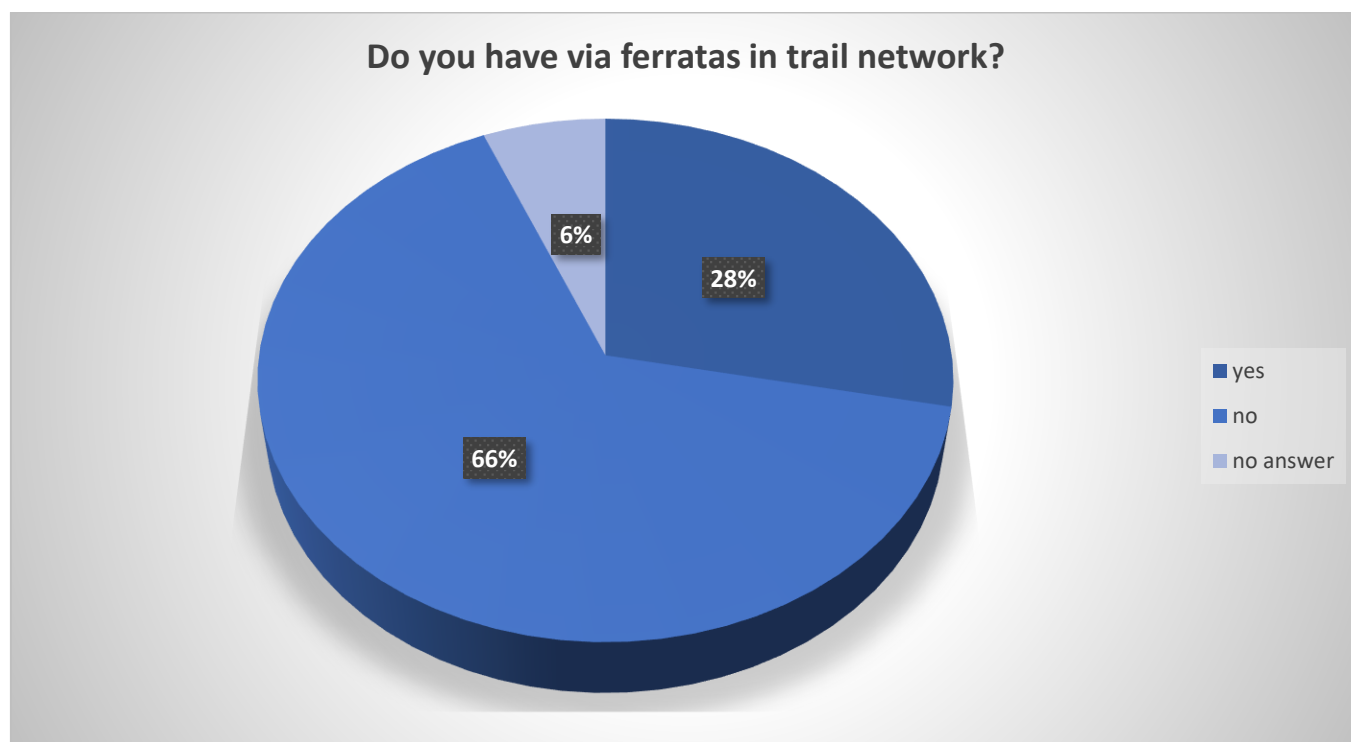
These types of via ferratas are close to the valley and have a comparably short approach; they do not have too many artificial aids like steel pins, iron brackets or stairs. Mainly friction needs to be used for the feet. Usually, no summit is reached, the way is the goal.

Fun via ferrata

These types of ferratas developed in the French alps in the 1990s. They are close to the valley or a ropeway. They mostly use spectacular routes through a wall or gorge using a lot of iron with an extreme exposure feeling. They use a maximum of artistic elements like rope bridges, flying foxes, nets, swinging elements or artificial handles.

Number of via ferratas

The majority of the 37 associations do not have via ferratas in their trail network. Nevertheless, about one third has via ferratas in their trail network.



From the nine associations who are having via ferratas in their trail network, CAI reports the highest number, namely more than 400, followed by the OeAV network in Austria with about 100, and 20 in the Czech Republic while the associations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Germany, Montenegro, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, and Slovenia, have between 20 and 2 via ferratas in their working area. As a fact of history, the via ferratas have been developed in the Alps and the idea found its way to other European countries.

Management of via ferratas

From the 37 returned questionnaires, 15 associations could give information about the organisation or institution managing the via ferratas.

In **Slovenia**, classic via ferratas (difficult, very difficult marked trails) are managed by the Alpine clubs and coordinated by the Commission for Mountain Trails of the Alpine Association of Slovenia. Sports and fun via ferratas are mainly managed by local communities.

In **Bulgaria**, the via ferratas are maintained by the Bulgarian Tourist Union, and other tourist clubs while in **Spain** this is done by public institutions or climbing centres. In **Italy**, the via ferratas are mostly maintained by alpine guides once a year. The few via ferratas in **Croatia** are installed by enthusiasts or other individuals who find support in local mountaineering societies, but not all the ferratas are managed by the HPS. The same can be said for **Bosnia and Herzegovina** where the association has no responsibility. In **Romania**, via ferratas are managed by individuals, local organizations, and the mountain rescue service or forestry agencies. In **Switzerland**, the via ferratas are managed by different organisations, private organisations, tourism organisations, and the Swiss Alpine Club.

In the **Czech Republic**, via ferratas are not under a common system and they are built and managed by cities, communities, associations or other bodies and the responsibility lies on the one who builds it. The same counts for **Portugal**. Within the **DAV** and **OeAV** the ferratas are managed and maintained by professionals, mostly mountain guides who are either paid by the local alpine club or by the headquarters.

In **Hungary**, there are two organizations who manage the via ferratas, Vasaltutak and MHSSZ. In **Serbia**, there is an NGO and a local mountaineering club who manage the via ferratas. In **North Macedonia**, it is very unclear who is managing the via ferratas since they are part of different projects. In **Montenegro**, via ferratas are arranged, maintained and commercially used on the principle of public private business partnership between the local tourism organisation or National Park and private tourism agencies. In **Slovakia**, the via ferratas are not part of the trail network. They are managed mainly by the mountain rescue service, or by other local organisations.

Conclusion of Via Ferratas

In most European countries where this kind of trail is present and where we got the information from the questionnaire different stakeholders take care about the via ferratas. Nevertheless, in Austria, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland, the leading mountaineering association centrally influences the process of building and maintaining via ferratas with recommendations and establishes connections with suitable persons. In the other countries there are mostly the local mountaineering clubs who are involved in any management process. The via ferratas are also managed by the government e.g., in Spain, touristic institutions, NGOs, local communities, or the mountain rescue service.

Suggestions

Uniform recommendations on constructing and maintaining via ferratas are missing and should be facilitated. This is especially needed in typical holiday destinations where tourists from countries with a reliable and more or less institutionalized process rely on the safety of the via ferratas without any thought for self-responsibility.

Courses for doing via ferratas and for guiding on them could be implemented.

A systematic central institution should have the overview of the different via ferratas.

6.2.5 Free access to trails

Except for one, all countries provide free access to their hiking trails. In some countries, the rules for national parks are limited. There are bans on access in some periods. Or a ticket is required.

Most common problems are due to the lack of legal regulations, private owners can fence their own territory and so problems arise regarding passage.

Romania is the only country where in some regions you must pay for access to the trails.

In Slovenia, the law defines free access for users and trail keepers.

Yes:	No:	no answer:
32 (89 %)	0 (0 %)	SE, 2xNL, IT

Country / region	Exceptions
AL	Lack of information of trail network
Cat, PT	Trail shall be homologated for free access
Ch1, SI	Free access based on the foot and hiking trail law
CZ	Trails are the most challenging at the beginning, later hikers are sorted out by themselves
ES	Trails on public/private roads/land with written owner's permission
HR, RS, ME, MK	Access fees in protected areas (parks...)
HU	No legal regulations so private owners can fence their land
IT1	In some periods of the year prohibited access for environmental protection
RO	in some regions you have to pay for access
Tra	There is usually a fee
Cat: Federació d'Entitats Excursionistes de Catalunya (FEEC)	
IT1: CAI	
Tra: Erdélyi Kárpát-Egyesület / Siaciateatea Carpatină Ardeleană / Transylvanian Carpathian Society	
Ch1: Berner Wanderwege	

6.2.6 Alignment with local, regional, and state legislation

Three quarters of the countries surveyed have some kind of legal regulation of hiking trails, whether on local, regional or state level. However, many of them do not have a law that constitutes the status of marked trails. The existence of a hiking trail is just based on tradition, depends on landowners and there is no special legal protection of the hiking trails which is a problem not only for the existence of a trail (historic or long), but also special conditions for the health and safety of the hikers are not ensured (no overlap with cycle routes, surface topic).

One quarter of the surveyed countries either have no regulations or regulations apply just partly (depending on special conditions).

6.2.7 Are your trails exclusively used by users on foot, except where use by others is explicitly allowed? Do hikers have priority over other users in that case?

Nine organisations say that their trails are exclusively used by users on foot whereas the trails of 28 organisations are also used by other users.

These other users are:

trail runners (on trails of 28 organisations),

bikers/MTB (26),

e-bikers/E-MTB (20),

motorcyclists (4),

horse riders (21),

quad drivers (4).

Other users not mentioned above are skiers (Estonia and Slovakia), who also use the trail.

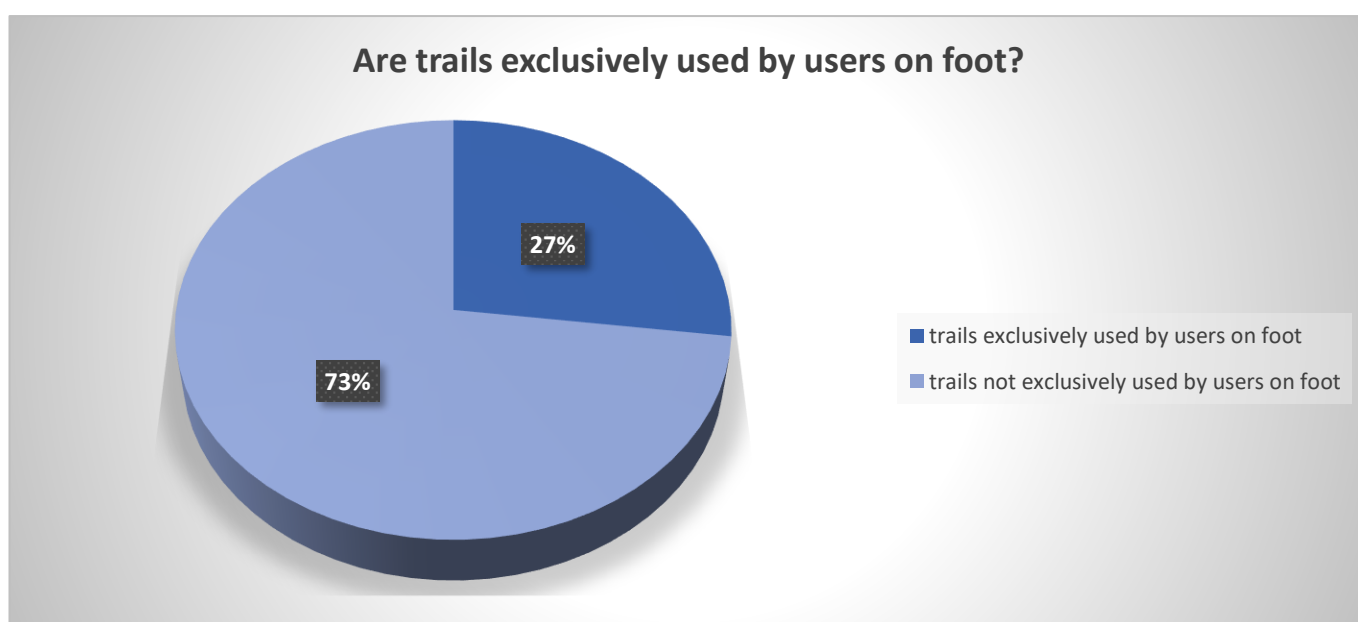
Some organisations mention that the use of the trail by other users than hikers is allowed if indicated on signs or on separate trails.

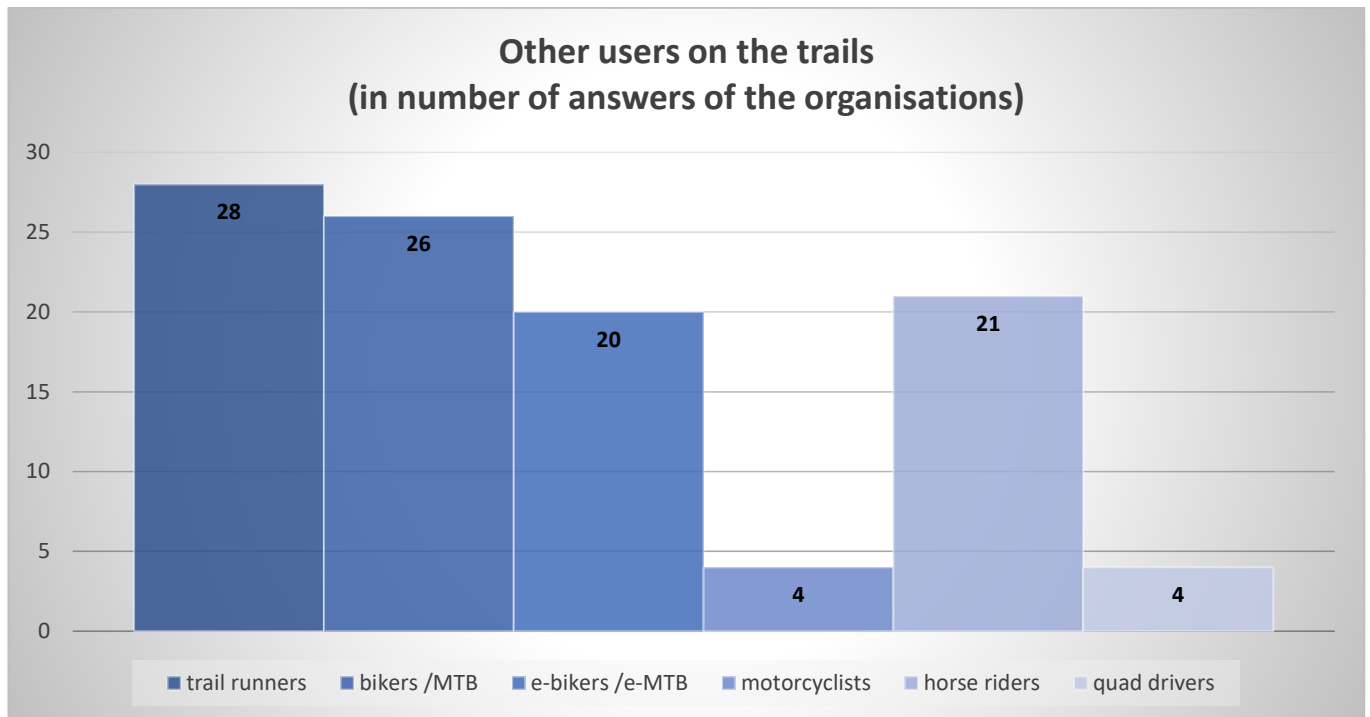
Some organisations observe that the trails intended for hiking are also used by other users and prevent this by employing rangers in protected areas.

Mutual respect and consideration are essential for the sharing of trails. Nevertheless, some conflicts might appear (e.g., horse riders vs. bikers) when using the same trail.

Beside the general rules about who can use the trails, there are some exceptions for accessing the trails (sport events in Romania e.g.).

The lack of binding laws for the trail use is mentioned by one organisation from Bosnia and Herzegovina.



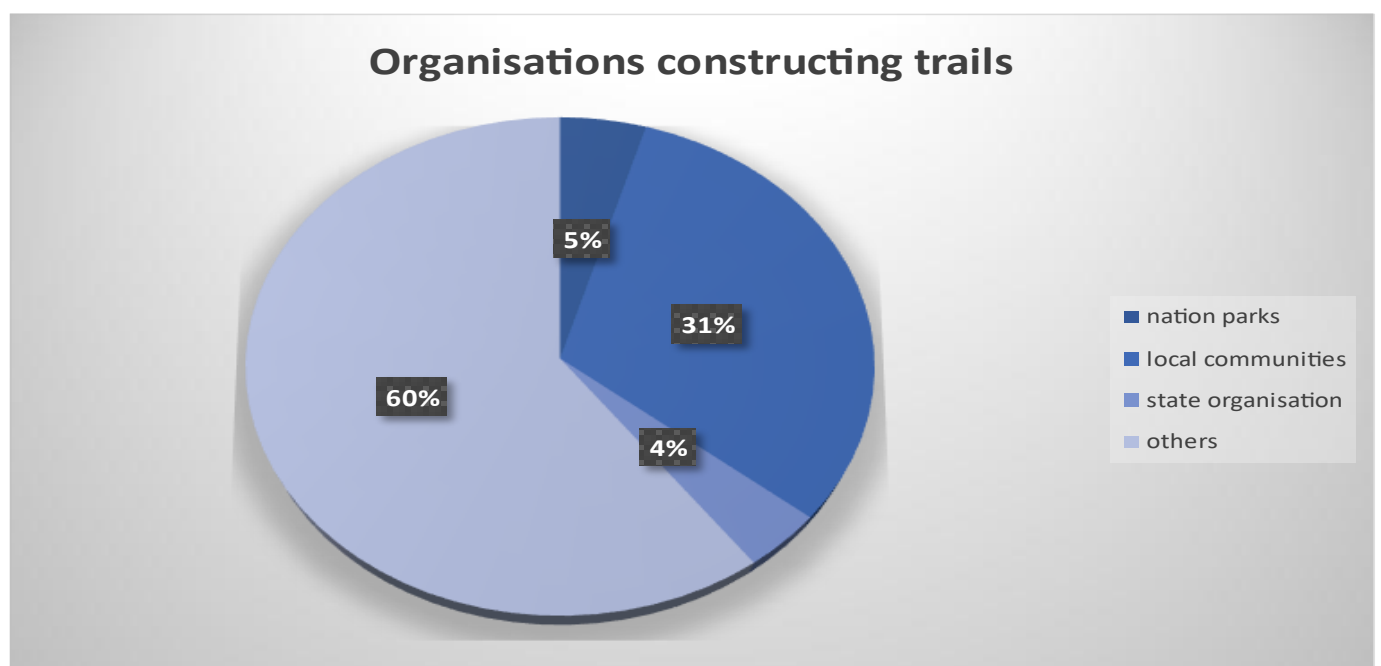


6.2.8 Are there trails constructed and maintained by national parks, local communities or state organisations in your working area?

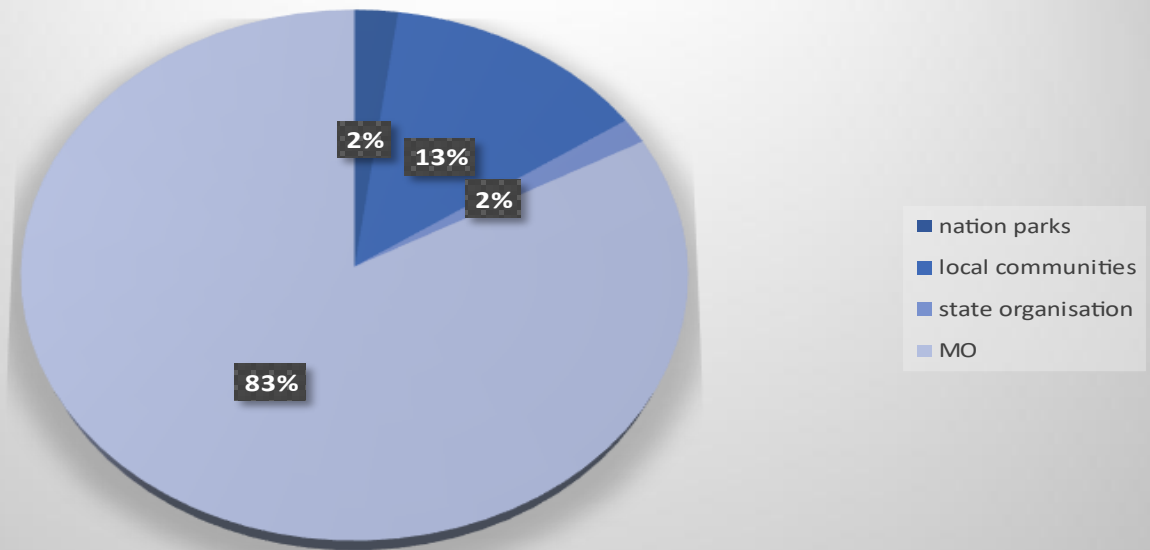
In the European countries, national parks, local communities, and state organisations are responsible for the creation of hiking trails in addition to NGOs.

At least, most of the trails are maintained by our MOs.

In Croatia, for example, park rangers also attend their seminars for trail keepers so they can maintain trail in parks areas alone. In Slovenia, in some cases, national parks create and maintain some trails. Local communities sometimes also create touristic trails.



Organisations that maintain trails



6.2.9 Are there approach trails to rock-climbing areas in your working area?

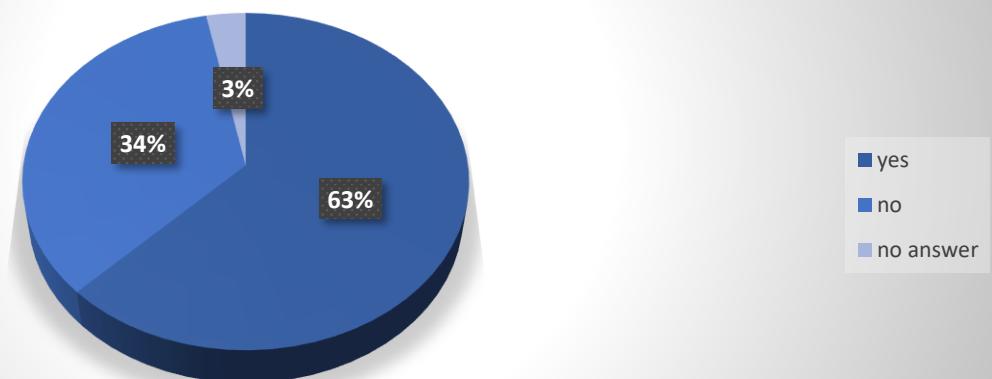
Definition

An approach trail usually is an unsealed single-track trail which leads to a rock-climbing area where different approach trails link climbing spots. It usually connects the last accessible point of the public traffic network (accessible by two track vehicles), mostly a parking space with the rock-climbing area. These trails are used to get access to the rock-climbing area and can run on official and marked trails or on wild trails formed by regular usage. The ratio between official trails and wild trails differs but mostly the last few steps are made on a wild trail. Some rock-climbing areas do not need an approach trail since they are located next to the parking space or on the side of a street or forest street where two track vehicles can drive.

Approach trails presence

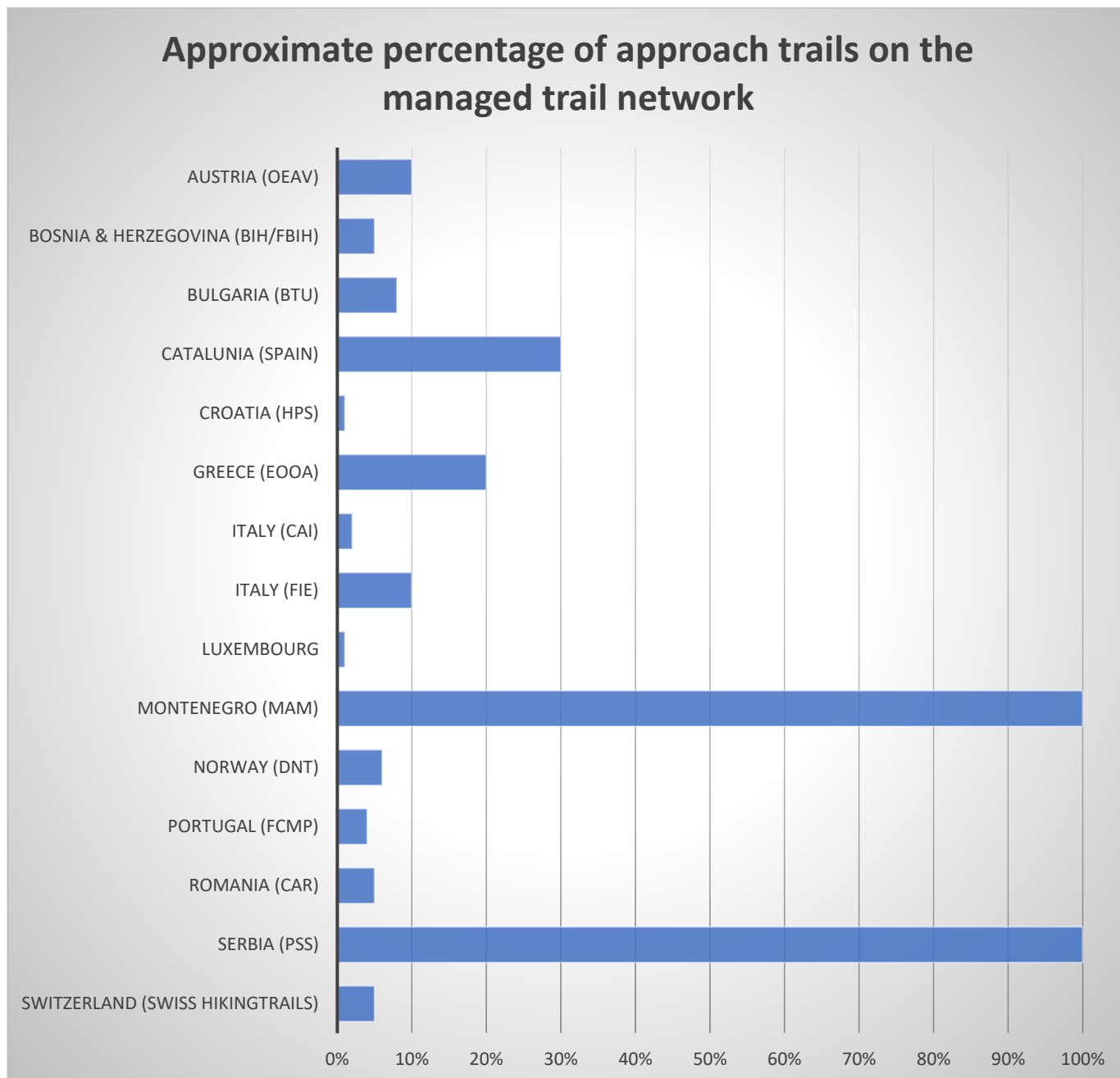
About two thirds of 37 associations have approach trails to rock-climbing areas in their trails network. This shows a significant presence of this type of trails in the investigated countries. For one country this information was not available. This result shows that climbing is very present in many European countries even in regions where due to the absence of mountains or big mountain ranges one would not suspect it.

Are in your working area approach trails to rock climbing areas?



Percentage of approach trails on the trail network

Serbia's and Montenegro's associations have the greatest share on approach trails to rock-climbing areas, followed by Spain and Greece. The associations who returned the questionnaire for Italy, Austria and Bulgaria have a considerable share of approach trails in their network. For the Albanian, British, and French associations, this information was not available. This table supports the fact that climbing is a famous sport in several European countries and climbers partly use y the infrastructure of the European trail network managed by different associations.



Suggestions

A cooperation between hiking trail associations and climbing associations could help to streamline the visitor guidance system for rock-climbing areas. The rock-climbing areas could profit by the experience of the trail experts and make the approach trails better. Due to the fact that there is no main path several wild approach trails form having an impact on nature. This could be influenced through a proper approach trail which is well marked. An example is given by the OeAV where some approach trails leaving the regular trail system are marked.



Sign towards three climbing sports within the rock-climbing area "Artzbergklamm" Tyrol

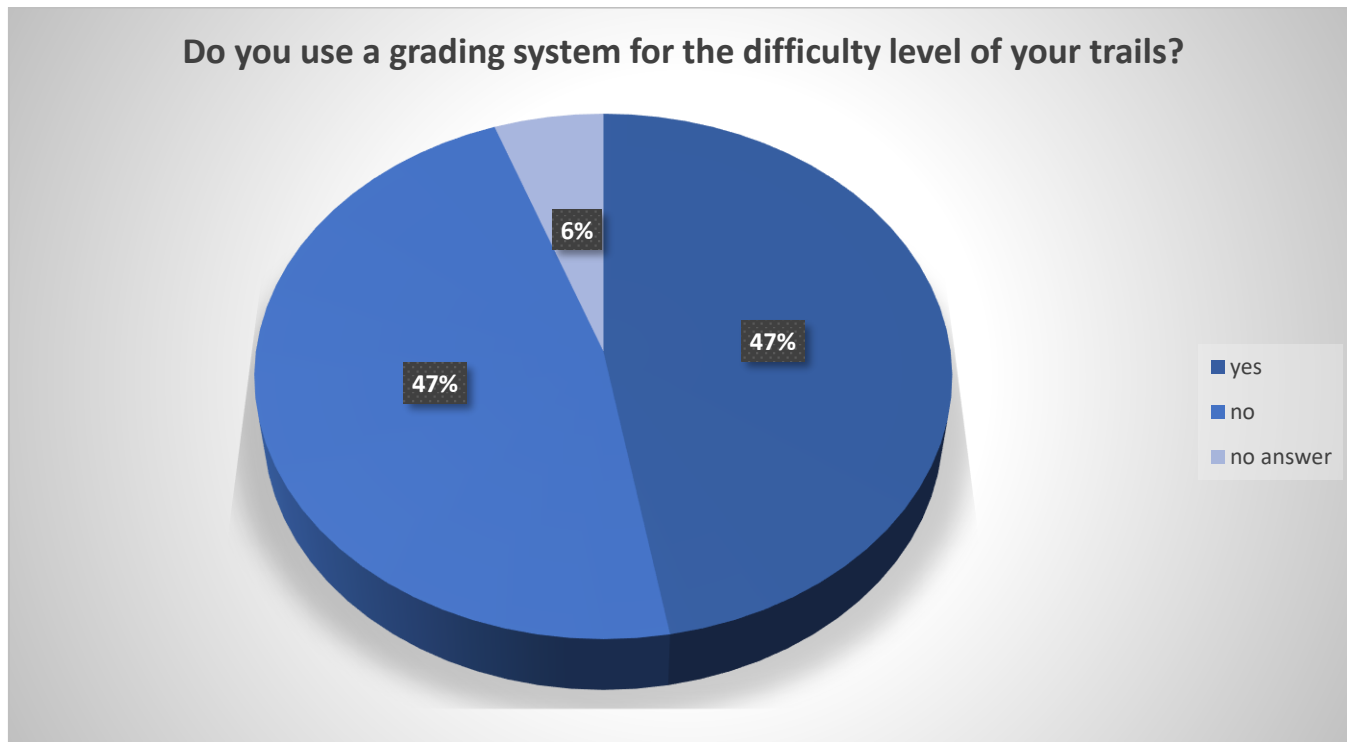
Sign towards the rock-climbing area "Seeblick" Styria

Approach trail map AV rock-climbing area Innsbruck



6.2.10 Grading system and marking

Some countries and associations use a system to show different difficulties of their trails. About half of the 37 associations differentiate their trails regarding different aspects like, difficulty, length, terrain, steepness, danger, themes and quality as well as visibility of markings. Most associations using a grading system report that this is used nationwide. Two associations could not give information about this aspect.



Marking

The marking of the trails could differ depending on the difficulty or the type of the trail. The following part presents the delivered data from the associations.

Slovenia

In Slovenia, the law states that marked trails are used on hikers' own risk. There are 3 (technical) categories of marked trails:

Easy trails – walking without the use of hands. Trekking poles can be used.

Difficult trails – Occasional use of hands. Steel rope and other equipment to increase safety. A helmet is recommended. (A triangle marks difficult trails on the signposts. On maps these trails are represented by a dashed line.)

Very difficult trails – use of hands is necessary. Steel rope and other equipment to facilitate upward movement. A helmet, climbing harness, and via ferrata kit are recommended. (A triangle with exclamation mark inside appears on the signposts. On maps these trails are represented by a dotted line.)

Italy (CAI)

T = Tourist - Itineraries on small paths, mule tracks or easy paths, with clearly evident routes that do not pose uncertainties or problems of orientation. They generally run below 2000 m and usually constitute access to mountain pastures or refuges. They require some knowledge of the mountain environment and physical preparation for walking.

E = Hiking - Itineraries that almost always run on paths, or on traces of passage in various terrain (pastures, debris, stony ground), usually with signs; there may be short flat or slightly inclined sections of residual snow, when, in the event of a fall, the slide stops in a short space and without danger. Sometimes they develop on open terrain, without paths but not problematic, always with adequate signs. They can run on steep slopes; the exposed sections are

generally protected (barriers) or secured (cables). They can have single passages on rock, not exposed, or short and not tiring or demanding sections thanks to equipment (ladders, rungs, cables) which, however, do not require the use of specific equipment (harness, carabiners, etc.). They require a certain sense of orientation, as well as some experience and knowledge of the mountainous territory, walking training, as well as appropriate footwear and equipment.

EE = trails for expert hikers - Itineraries generally marked but which imply an ability to move on particular terrain. Paths or tracks on rough and treacherous terrain (steep and / or slippery slopes of grass, or mixed rocks and grass, or rock and debris). Varied terrain, at relatively high altitudes (stony ground, short non-steep snowfields, open slopes without reference points, etc.). Rocky sections, with slight technical difficulties (aided routes, via ferratas). On the other hand, paths on glaciers are excluded, even if flat and / or apparently without crevasses (because crossing them would require the use of a rope and ice axe and knowledge of the related belay/safety manoeuvres). They require:

mountain experience in general and good knowledge of the alpine environment;
sure-footedness and absence of dizziness;
adequate equipment, and physical preparation.

EEA = trails for expert hikers with equipment - Aided routes or via ferratas for which the use of self-belaying devices (harness, heat sink, carabiners, lanyards) and personal protective equipment (helmet, gloves) is required

Italy (FIE)

T: Tourist path: easy, short, no significant differences in height –less than 500 m total up/down; it may follow cultural/religious itineraries (thematic), particular equipment is not required;

E: Excursion path: mostly on well-marked tracks, between 500 and 1,000 m of total ascent, less than 20 km long, few passages might be tracks of path, a certain expertise, training and equipment is required;

EE: Path for expert ramblers: the trail is long (more than 20 km, with more than 1000 m ascent, some parts may be difficult/exposed/steep/short parts even with the help of iron cables (NOT ferrata); a good training, expertise and equipment (shoes, clothing) is mandatory;

EEA: the same as above with significant parts of the path requiring ferrata expertise, training and full equipment (helmet, mountaineering harness, via ferrata kit) are mandatory;

Long-distance paths: European long-distance paths (E-paths)

Croatia

In Croatia, the system of marking the difficulty of a mountaineering trail originated in the Alpine countries at a time when no other information was available. In the opinion of CMA, the difficulty of a mountaineering trail depends more on the capabilities of the individual user than on the trail itself. Thus, for example, the same mountaineering trail can be difficult when a person is a child, become easy when he/she grows up, and become difficult again when a person enters old age. It is known that today modern technologies have made it easy to access a wealth of information about each mountaineering trail, so it is assumed that users will assess how demanding the trail is for them.

Germany and Austria

Trails in the sense of this concept are mountain trails in alpine and high alpine areas. They can thus present the typical alpine hazards. The use of adequate equipment for walking on these trails is presupposed. The working areas include trails of different categories:

Valley trails

Valley trails are predominantly wide, they generally have only a slight incline and no passages with a risk of falling. Due to their proximity to the valley and their easy character, valley trails are usually not maintained by alpine clubs. In Tyrol, the blue marking is not used.





Mountain trails

Mountain trails are predominantly narrow, they are often steep and can have passages that pose a danger of falling. With increasing difficulty, and thus higher classification, the frequency of passages with a risk of falling increases, as does the frequency of secured walking passages and/or easy climbing passages that require the use of hands.

Alpine routes

These routes lead into open alpine and high alpine terrain and are no mountain paths in the previous sense. They can be visible in the terrain through footprints, which are the result of frequent use, but they can also be pathless. Alpine routes include exposed areas that are prone to slipping and falling, as well as unsecured walking and climbing passages. Their technical difficulty can be significantly higher than that of difficult mountain trails. (But they can also be less difficult, as in the case of an unmarked glacier crossing, for example). Alpine routes are usually neither created nor maintained, so they may not be marked or signposted as an aid to orientation. Alpine routes require absolute sure-footedness and freedom from vertigo, good physical condition, excellent orientation skills, secure terrain assessment, alpine or even high alpine climbing and mountaineering experience, and familiarity with the use of the necessary mountain and emergency equipment.

















For mountain trails, Germany and Austria use blue (easy) red (middle) black (difficult) for hiking trails.

	Bergwege mit blauem Punkt sind: • einfachere Wege, die schmal und steil sein können
	Bergwege mit rotem Punkt sind: • überwiegend schmal, oft steil angelegt und können absturzgefährliche Passagen aufweisen • kurze versicherte Gehpassagen können vorkommen
	Bergwege mit schwarzem Punkt sind: • schmal, oft steil angelegt und absturzgefährlich • Es kommen zudem gehäuft versicherte Gehpassagen und/oder einfache Kletterstellen vor, die den Gebrauch der Hände erfordern • Trittsicherheit und Schwindelfreiheit sind unbedingt erforderlich
	• Alpine Routen führen in das freie alpine bzw. hochalpine Gelände und sind keine Bergwege im vorangegangenen Sinne • Sie können exponierte, ausrutsch- und absturzgefährdete sowie ungesicherte Geh- und Kletterpassagen enthalten

This table shows a comparison between the neighbouring regions:

Wegekategorien

Achtung: In unseren Nachbarländern gelten andere Wegekategorien. Hier zum Vergleich die entsprechenden Einteilungen und die Zeichen.

Bayerische Alpen ohne Allgäu	Land Tirol	Salzburger Land	Vorarlberg + Allgäu	Schweiz
Schwere Bergwege 				
Mittelschwere Bergwege 				
Einfache Bergwege 				
Talwege				

Switzerland (Berner Wanderwege)

In Switzerland, there are three official categories of hiking trails: 1) Hiking trails 2) Mountain hiking trails 3) Alpine hiking trails.

The hiking scale of the Swiss Alpine Club was introduced in 2002 and is divided into six different grades:

T1 (Easy valley trail, yellow):

Trail well marked. If present, exposed areas are very well secured. Danger of falling can be largely excluded with normal behaviour. Also suitable with sneakers. Orientation without problems, usually possible without a map.

T2 (Easy mountain trail, DAV: blue, SAC: white-red-white):

Trail with continuous route. Terrain partly steep, danger of falling not completely excluded. Some surefootedness necessary, trekking shoes recommended. Elementary orientation skills.

T3 (moderately difficult mountain trail, DAV: red, SAC: white-red-white/white-blue-white): Trail on the ground not necessarily visible throughout. Exposed areas may be secured with ropes or chains. You may need your hands for balance. Partly exposed places with danger of falling, scree areas, pathless scree. Good surefootedness, good trekking shoes necessary. Average orientation skills. Elementary alpine experience.

T4 (Difficult mountain trail, DAV: black, SAC: white-blue-white):

Trail not necessarily available. In certain places you need your hands to move forward. Terrain already quite exposed, tricky grassy slopes, crags. In the high mountains possibly easy firn fields and glacier passages. Familiarity with exposed terrain required. Sturdy trekking shoes. Some terrain awareness and good orientation skills. Alpine experience. Retreat may be difficult in the event of a sudden deterioration in weather.

T5 (Difficult mountain trail, DAV: black, SAC: white-blue-white):

Often pathless. Some easy climbing sections. Exposed, demanding terrain, steep scree. In the high mountains, there may be loose glaciers and firn fields with danger of slipping. Mountain boots. Secure terrain assessment and very good orientation skills. Good alpine experience in high alpine terrain. Elementary knowledge in the use of ice axe and rope.

T6 (difficult mountain trail, DAV: black, SAC: white-blue-white):

Mostly pathless. Climbing passages up to grade II. Often very exposed. Tricky scree terrain. Glacier with increased danger of slipping. Mostly not marked. Excellent orientation skills. Mature alpine experience and familiarity with the use of alpine technical aids.

Mountain trails of grades T5 and T6 are in part already "alpine routes" and can correspond to easier alpine tours (L, WS) in terms of overall demand - however, due to the terrain, mostly without securing possibilities.

Switzerland (Schweizer Wanderwege)

The "Schweizer Wanderwege" define three difficulty levels.

1. Wanderweg - hiking trail: <https://www.wandern.ch/de/signalisation/wanderweg>;
2. Bergwanderweg - mountain trail: <https://www.wandern.ch/de/signalisation/bergwanderweg>;
3. Alpinwanderweg - alpine trail: <https://www.wandern.ch/de/signalisation/alpinwanderweg> All further information about system and waymarking are described in our Manual; Waymarking that can be downloaded here: https://www.wandern.ch/download.php?id=3332_cf5929c8;

Design elements of all categories of signposts are specified by the SN 640 829a standard. Many trail users are already used to the difficulty levels of Swiss hiking trails. The levels come along with hiking suggestions (print/digital), campaigns are launched to inform people about requirements on mountain hiking trails, definitions of difficulty levels can be read on websites such as <https://www.wandern.ch/de/signalisation> etc.

The Swiss mobile foundation introduced separately:

- National routes
- Regional routes
- Local routes
- Barrier-free routes

North Macedonia

In North Macedonia, they use Class 1 - recreational walking trails, Class 2 – mountaineering-easy trails (a path available for a certain group of people with good health and basic mountaineering knowledge), Class 3 – Mountaineering-moderate trails /medium heavy trails (trail that requires good health, good physical condition, and

good knowledge of mountaineering techniques) and Class 4 – Mountaineering-hard trails / difficult trails (path for mountaineering "professionals")

France

Differentiation between GR which applies to long distance hiking trails, GR® which applies to hiking trails within a geographic entity and PR® which is usually a loop trail doable within one day.

Luxembourg

Grading from 1 to 4 according to the European standards, 4 not being applicable due to the topography of the landscape.

Montenegro

The law of mountain trails and the standard for the construction and installation of tourist signs prescribe, among other things, criteria for assessing the difficulty and complexity of mountain trails for the following purposes:

a) difficult mountain trail - black, b) medium difficult - red and c) light - blue.

Assessments of difficulty are mandatory in the publication describing the itinerary, maps and waymarking of mountain trails. The trails are marked with a full circle in the colour of the difficulty:

- light blue circle-easy trail
- red circle-medium difficult track
- black circle-difficult path

Slovakia

The hiking trails are marked according to the Slovak technical norm STN 01 8025 (touristic cycling roads are maintained by the Slovak Cycling Club, according STN 01 8028). Touristic maps contain the network of marked trails. The trails are specified by their number and by one of four colours - red, blue, green, yellow. The colour does not express difficulty, nor quality, but hierarchy: main trails forming the national network are red; main connections, attached to, or crossing the red trails are blue or green, shorter connections are yellow. Marked touristic trails are in terrain marked by stripe-shaped markings - white, colour, white horizontal stripe. On the trail, there are poles with signboards, too.

Norway

The grading has four levels:

Green = simple. These are mostly short and easy trails that are suitable for everyone, with no requirements for special skills or equipment. In cases where it is adapted for wheelchair users or prams, this is especially indicated. Blue = medium. These are trails that are suitable for persons who have basic hiking skills and are in normal physical condition.

Red = demanding. Trails marked in red are suitable for experienced hikers, with good endurance. The trails often require good hiking shoes and other hiking equipment, as well as knowledge of maps and compasses.

Black = extra demanding. These are hikes suitable for experienced mountaineers, with good physique, strength and endurance. Good hiking equipment and good knowledge of maps and compasses are necessary on such trails. How demanding a trail is is determined, among other things, by the number of altitude meters (ascent) and length of the trail. Even if the trail is in flat terrain, it can be marked in red if it is very long. And conversely, even if the trail is short, it can be marked in black if it runs in steep and demanding terrain.

Summary

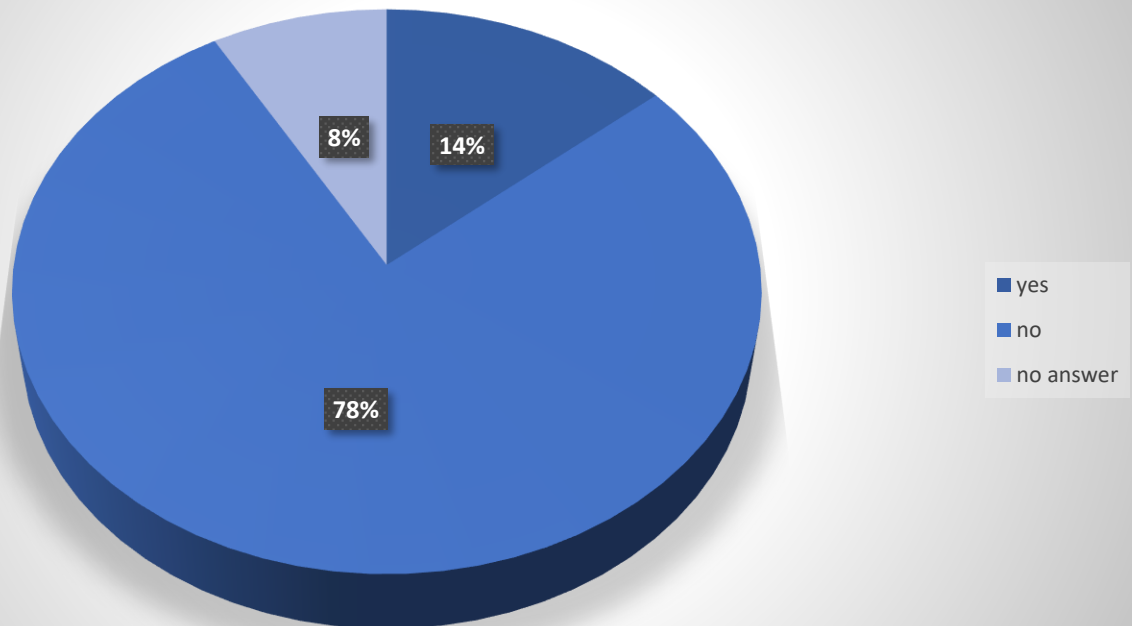
The trails in the European countries are following different ideas and rationales. It could be said that trails in the Balkan countries have great similarities, also trails in the Slavic countries are showing similarities. Spain and Portugal are showing similarities so do Germany and Austria in the Alpine area.

6.2.11 Grading system for the quality level of trails?

Some ideas are existing in the European countries regarding a special award for the quality of trails.



Do you use a grading system for the quality level of your trails?



Almost every country has criteria which a trail must meet and differentiates between managed and non-managed trails. But most of the countries and their associations have no special system for expressing the quality of a trail. Germany, Austria, and Switzerland apply different quality labels like the quality label awarded by the German hiking club, or the best offers by the Swiss mobile foundation. In Austria there is the seal of approval for high quality trails. The French apply a quality label for hiking trails. Luxembourg and the Czech Republic use the Leading Quality Trails - Best of Europe (LQT-BE) label. This certificate is awarded by ERA and could be applied to any European hiking trail. In addition, the Czech Republic is applying the KCT Methodology where the trails' quality is distinguished by (the routes are led by interesting terrain, place, around places of public transport...). Italy is planning to implement an LQT-BE Certification.



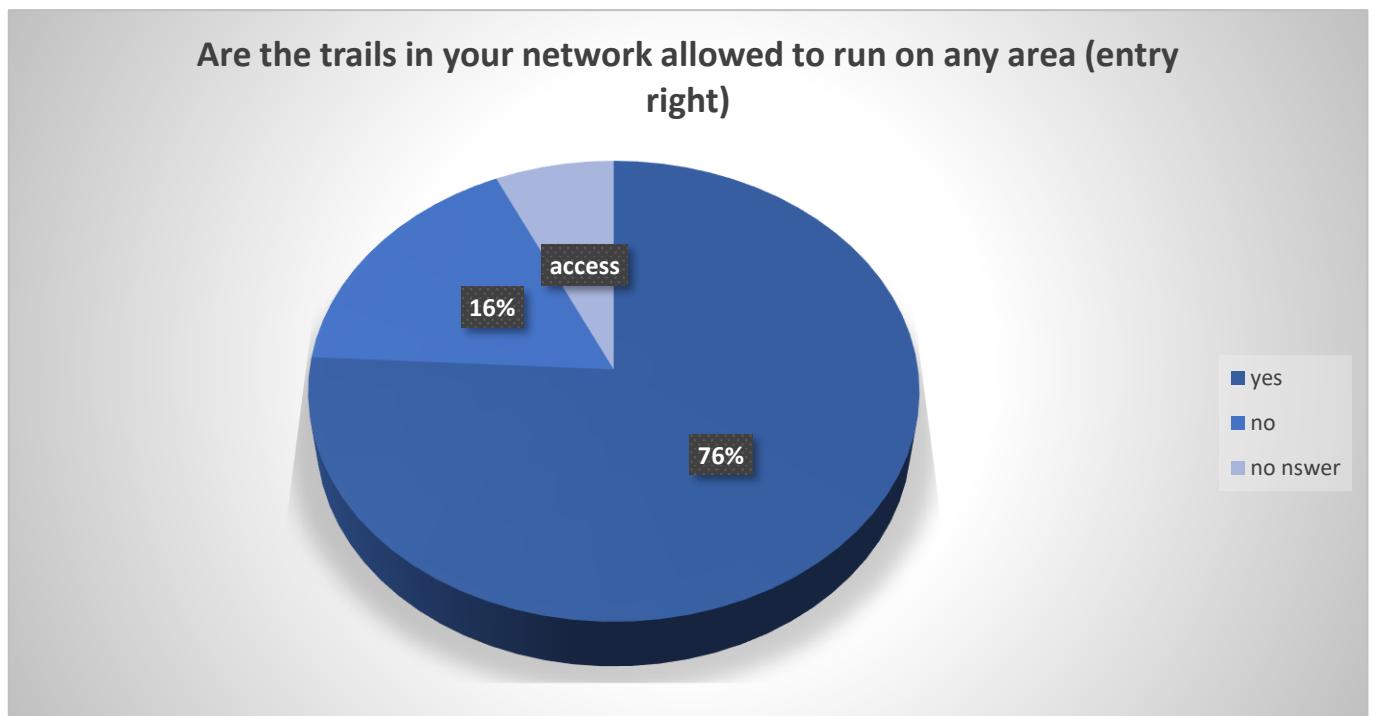
Suggestions

The quality label of ERA "Leading Quality Trails - Best of Europe" is available throughout Europe, the problem is that some countries have not accepted it yet, or their trails do not comply with the criteria needed to apply for the label. In the project, 5 to 10 principles of trails could be developed, for example, how the path must look like, type of markings etc.

6.2.12 Are your trails visible and clearly recognisable in the terrain?

All of the countries have visible signposts, and the trails are clearly marked.

6.2.13 Are the trails in your network allowed to run on any area (access right), e. g. state territory, communal territory, private territory, seaside, lakefront, riverside, with simultaneous consideration of environment and nature protection?



In most of the countries, the trails may run on any area, which is regulated differently in different countries in accordance with the respective legislative system. From the analysis, it can be determined that the consent of certain parties is required (e.g., private territory, military territory, protected natural areas), while in certain national parks an access fee is charged. Quite a few countries do not have access rights throughout all the areas, even though in the comment section for this question the above-mentioned consent from certain parties is required for the access right to be granted. However, in some countries, the lack of legislation to further regulate the relations between the stakeholders remains an issue.

Comments:

Belgium: Asbl Sentiers de Grande Randonnée

On private territory, a convention with the owner is needed.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Planinarski Savez Federacije Bosne i Hercegovine

On private territory, a convention with the owner is needed.

Bulgaria (no): Bulgarian Tourist Union

Not allowed to run on private property and Nature reserve parks.

Croatia (no):

The network of existing mountaineering trails historically runs through any area. Within the territory of Croatia, there are restrictions in areas under some form of nature protection. In this case, the consent of the management of these areas is required. Also, the founder of the mountaineering trail is obliged to obtain the consent of the owner of the private property through which the trail passes.

Czech Republic (no): Klub českých turistů (KCT)

In general, a walking route can lead anywhere if we have the consent of the landowner. Historical routes are a chapter in themselves. In case of National parks, there is a contract with the Ministry of the Environment, trail routing is solved individually in the given territory. Military territory is usually inaccessible, but there is a case where the trail is accessible on weekends.

England & Wales, UK: British Mountaineering Council

With some exceptions for safety and privacy.

Estonia: Eesti Matkaliit

On private territory allowed to run only when the owner accepts.

France: Fédération Française de la Randonnée Pédestre

Except for private roads and paths. A passage permit must be signed.

Germany: Spessartbund e. V.

Only if private area is used for economic reasons, it could be closed for trail users.

Hungary: Hungarian Hikers Association

The lack of regulations is still a problem.

Luxembourg: Ministry for the Economy-department for Tourism

Authorization should be requested, but free access is commonly accepted

North Macedonia: Mountaineering Federation of North Macedonia (FPSM)

Allowed in National Parks (entrance ticket to a national park), protected natural area, with special permission.

Poland (no): Centralny Ośrodek Turystyki Górskiej PTTK - Mountain Tourism Center of PTTK

The access right does not exist. Newly built trails need to get permission from landowners.

Portugal: Federação de Campismo e Montanhismo de Portugal (FCMP)

Trails are built throughout the national territory, except for some areas of natural full reserve or for example in private properties whose owners do not authorize way marking and free transit.

Serbia: Planinarski savez Srbije (PSS)

It is allowed with permission of the owner or stakeholder.

Slovenia: Planinska zveza Slovenije

The environmental consent and consent of owner/operator is obligatory.

Spain: Federación Española de Deportes de Montaña y Escalada

Most of the trails are built on public roads, for public use. There are trails through private land, through Protected Natural Areas, through Public Hydraulic Domain, Coastal Domain, Communal Mountains, etc. They must have permission from the owner / managing body of the same. In the homologation process it is one of the matters that is checked.

Switzerland: Berner Wanderwege

The (written) consent of the landowner must be available and the routes must be recorded in the cantonal sectoral plan (= planning binding on the authorities).

Switzerland: Schweizer Wanderwege

The (written) consent of the landowner must be available and the routes must be recorded in the cantonal sectoral plan (= planning binding on the authorities).

6.2.14 Are the trail keepers clearly specified?



There is no general agreement on this question. In some of the countries, there are state organizations of trail keepers, but that is a rare example. In other countries, different organizations and services perform these activities, in some of the countries trail keeping is taken care of by a project of different third persons that are not a part of the state organizations, responsible to carry out these activities ex officio. In some countries there are state officials such as forest rangers which, among other activities, have the responsibility to take care of the condition of the tracks.

Comments:

Albania (no): Albanian Mountaineering Association

The trails in Albania are mostly marked by different NGO-s and mostly this is not clear.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (-):

Trails are marked either by mountaineering association members or individual persons, but it is not clearly documented who the trail commissioner is

Croatia (no):

Within the HPS, there is no organised trail keepers' service. Participants who complete the trail marking training receive a badge to wear during the trail maintenance action. Protected areas have their own organized surveillance service. The task of the supervisor (ranger) is, among other things, to take care of the proper use of arranged, registered mountaineering trails and compliance with the prescribed rules of environmental protection by visitors.

England & Wales, UK (no): British Mountaineering Council

It is not clearly advertised at the point of access or exit who is managing the trail. In order to find out, it is necessary to research this on the web / contact the local authority.

Estonia (no):

State Forest Management Centre and other organisations are main actors.

France: Fédération Française de la Randonnée Pédestre

There are few trail keepers, except in some territory as parks.

Italy (no):

The trail keeping task is accomplished by several institutions. On the E-Paths, usually FIE is in charge of the keeping.

Greece (no):

There are no guards on the trails of Greece.

Hungary (no):

There is no active ranger system in Hungary, but they are working on it.

North Macedonia (-):

In FPSM, there are trained and qualified trail keepers (markacists), but they are not part of the system in which there are clearly stated duties, obligations, and rights from the state. Markacists are members of mountaineering clubs and they have attended and passed trainings, and they are also taking care of the trails according to their financial and organizational capacities, as well as voluntarily.

Romania (-):

Not all the time the trail keepers are clearly specified.

Serbia:

The Mountaineering Association of Serbia on the state level

- takes care and evidence of the trails
- gives permission for new trails
- gives rules and takes over control

The local MOs keep the trails.

Slovenia: Planinska zveza Slovenije

Only for the trail network in their domain, governed by the law, but there are also others for which we have no information.

Transylvanian Carpathian Society (-):

The mountain rescue service is.

6.2.15 What are the average costs to construct a new trail?

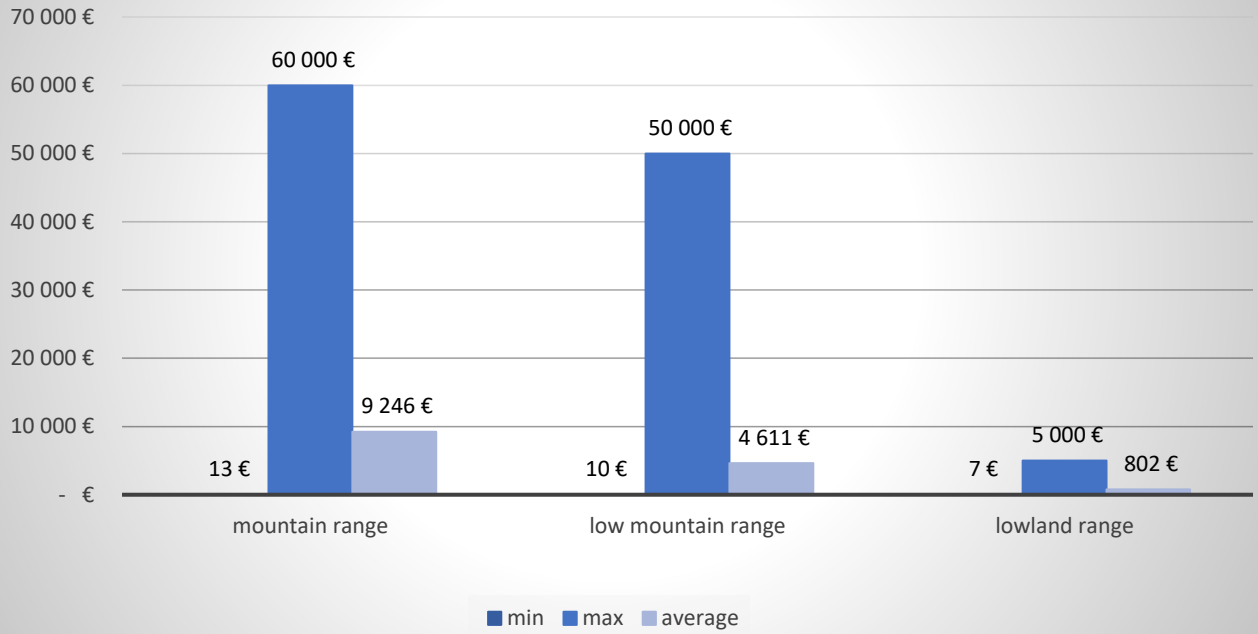
Costs differ with each country – the difference is big - it is clear from the questionnaire that the costs depend on the route creation approach. In half of the countries the costs of building new and maintaining old trails are significantly reduced by the work of volunteers.

On average, the cost is around € 1,000 – € 2,000 per kilometre of new hiking trail (including project, constructions on the route, signposts, marking, rest areas, information boards, work of 2 paid people in addition to volunteers) depending on the complexity of the terrain and the country in question. Without need of small constructions (like small bridges, handrails...), rest areas, information boards and mainly with the work of volunteers, the cost would be approx. € 400 – € 1,100 per kilometre.

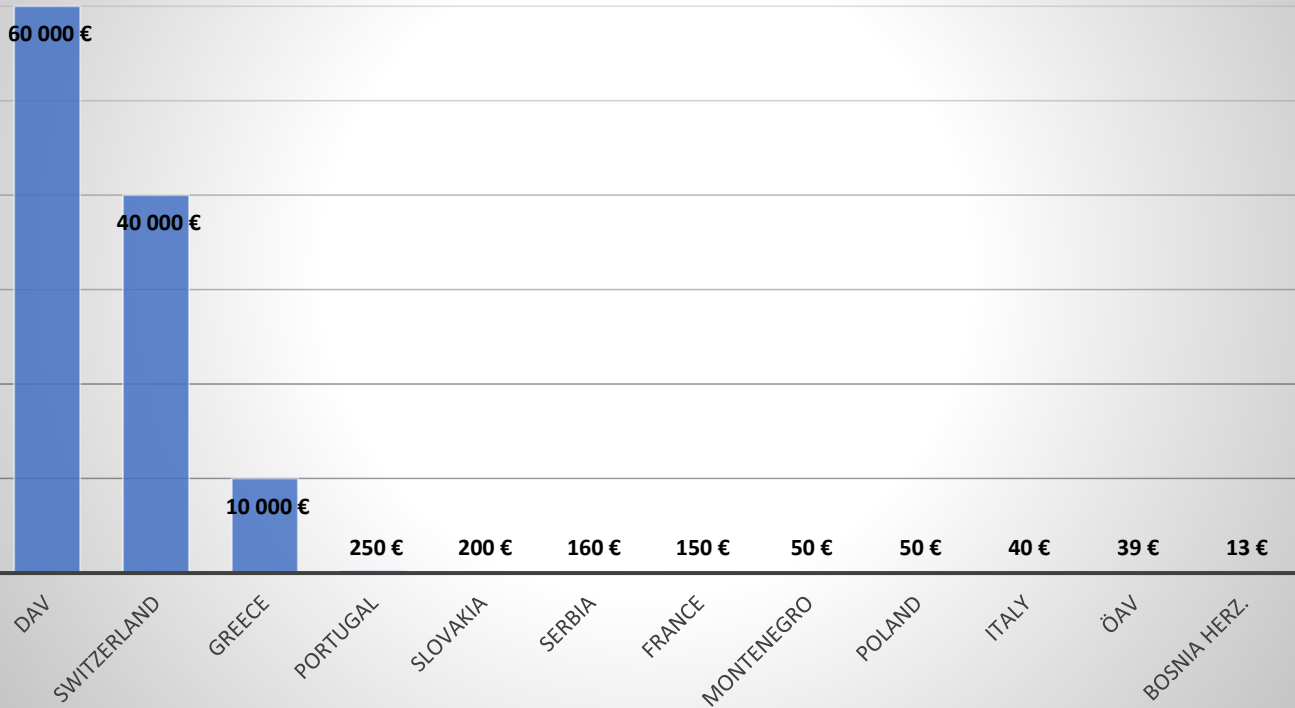
In a specific example of a hiking trail in the Czech Republic, which was 20% new and 80% renovated, 1 km of the new route cost € 550 in light terrain, € 605 in medium-heavy terrain and € 697 in complex terrain. If that was a 100% newly constructed trail, it would cost € 949 in light terrain, € 1,067 in medium-heavy terrain and € 1,262 in heavy terrain (see appendix 1).

Half of the surveyed countries have no information on costs. One country stated the reason is lack of money – they do not construct new trails but try to optimize the existing ones. Another country stated construction of new trails is discouraged by law.

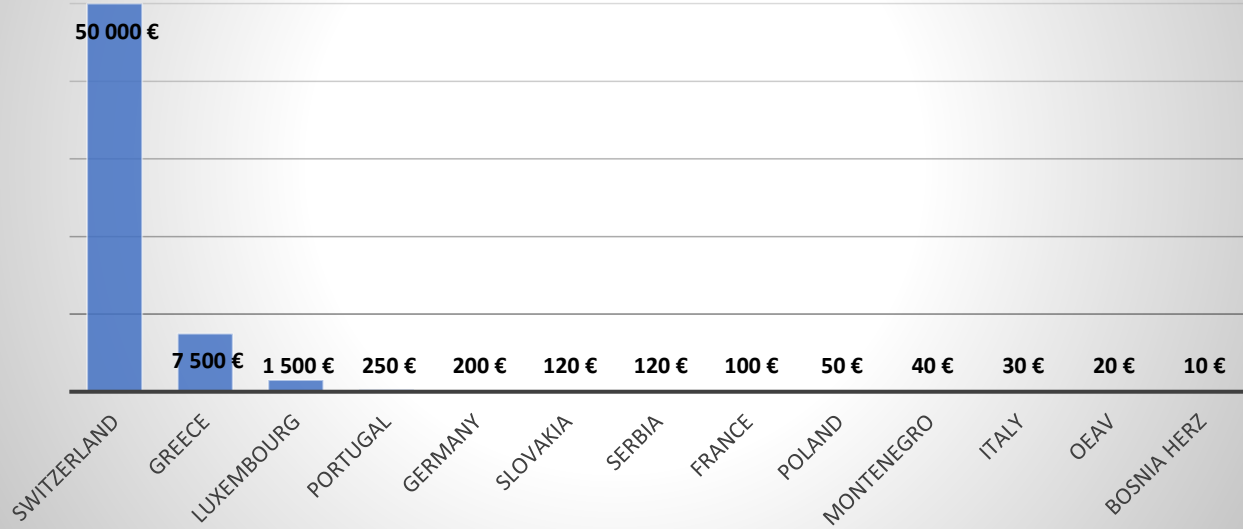
Construction cost overview



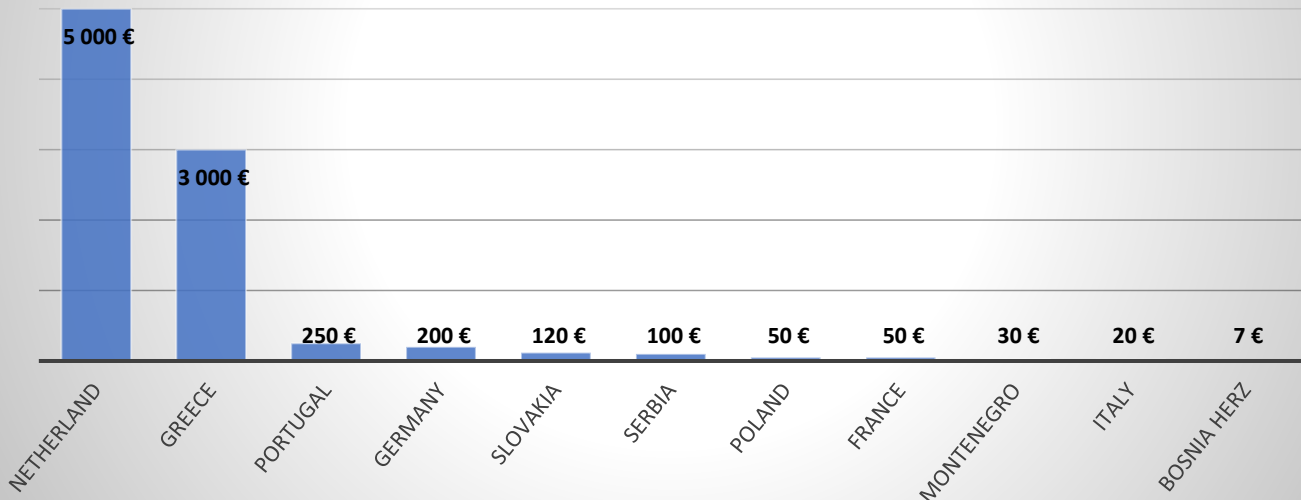
Construction cost for trails in mountain range



Construction cost for trails in low mountain range



Construction cost for trails in lowland range



6.2.16 Is the trail construction maintained frequently?

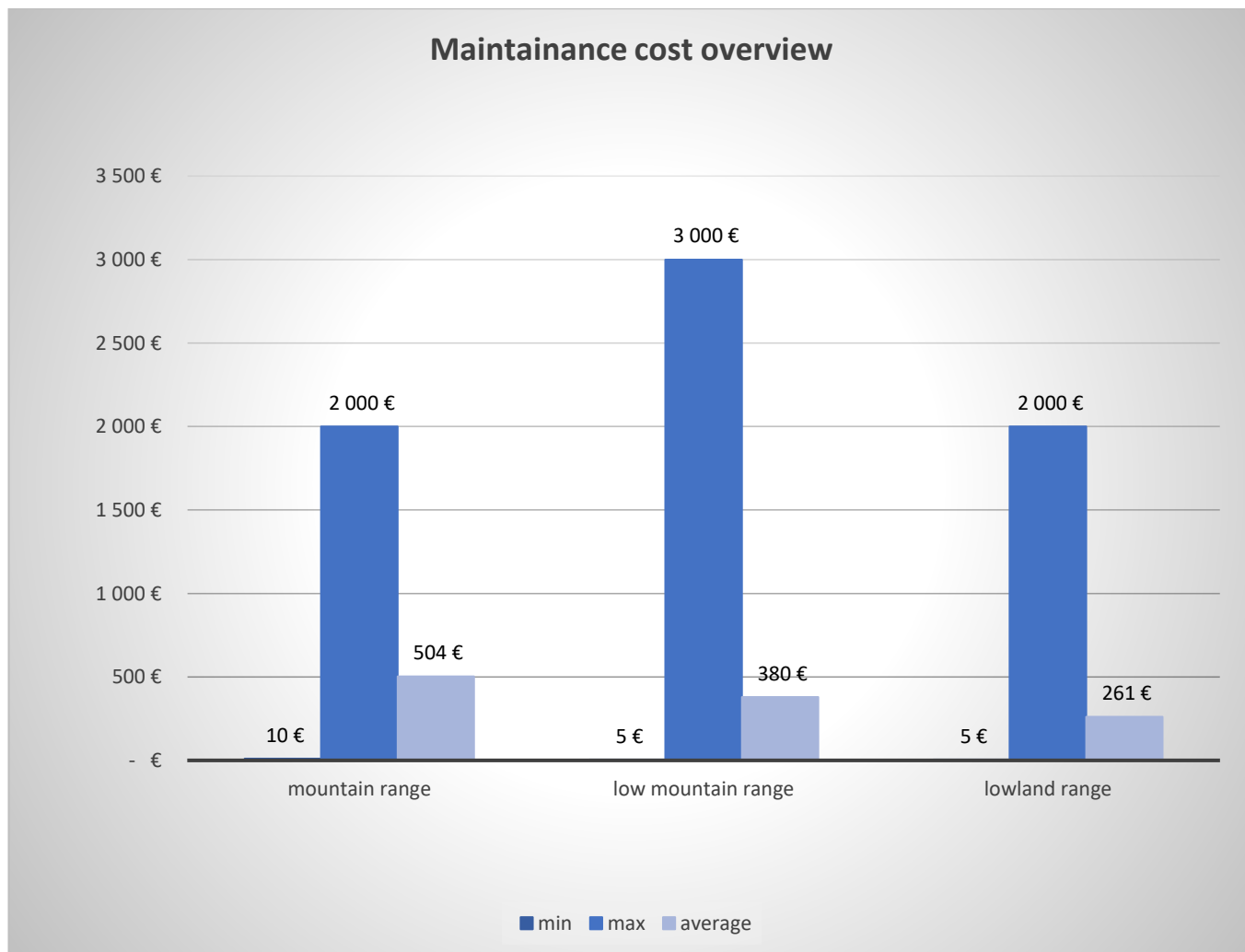
Two thirds of the respondents maintain trails frequently. Usually, the range is 1-5 years. Countries with lush vegetation usually maintain their trails more frequently, i. e. 1-3 years. There is a difference in maintenance: usually there is general maintenance in 2-5 years and trails are usually checked once a year and after natural disasters. One third of the countries don't maintain frequently. One of them stated that they do not have enough capacity and power to maintain the whole trail system regularly. Annually they manage necessary alterations of the trail (not constructing new trails) and 9 % of the way marking.

6.2.17 What are the average annual costs to maintain the trail construction?

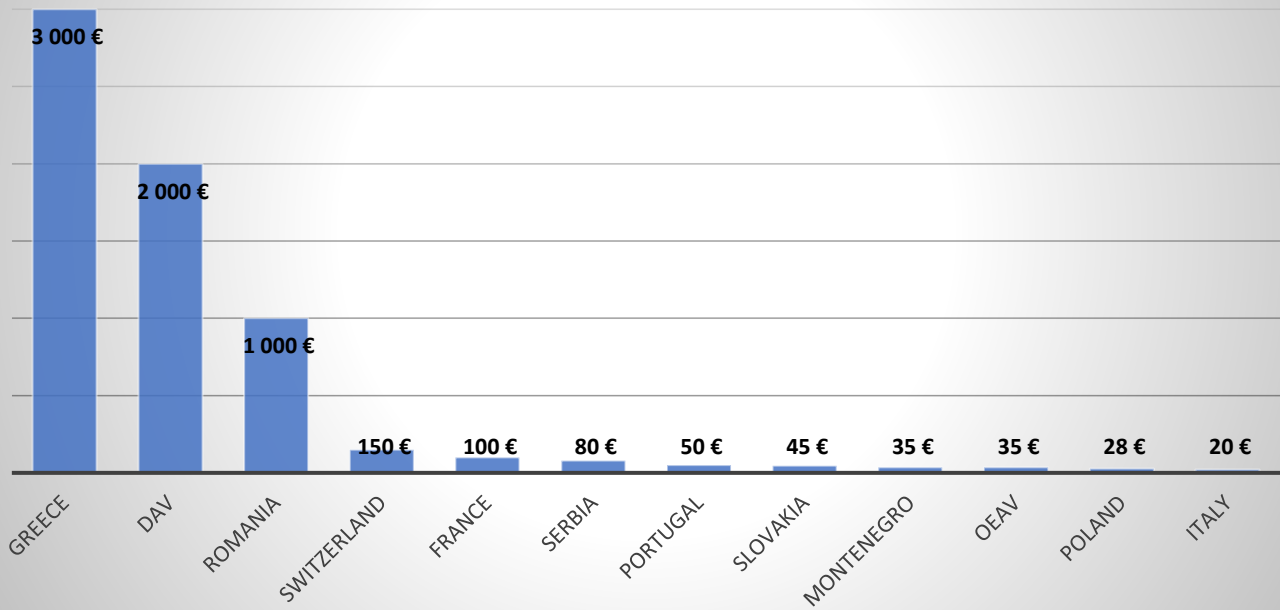
Costs differ within each country – the difference is big - it is clear from the questionnaire that the costs depend on the route creation approach. In some countries, the costs of maintaining old trails are significantly reduced by the work of volunteers.

On average, the cost is around € 500 – € 1,000 per kilometre of new hiking trail (including project -no need to seek for permissions anymore-, renovation/renewal of constructions, signposts, marking, rest areas, information boards, work of 2 paid people in addition to volunteers) depending on the complexity of the terrain and the country in question. Without need of renovation of small constructions (like small bridges, handrails...), rest areas, information boards and mainly with the work of volunteers, the costs would be approx. € 150 – € 650 per kilometre.

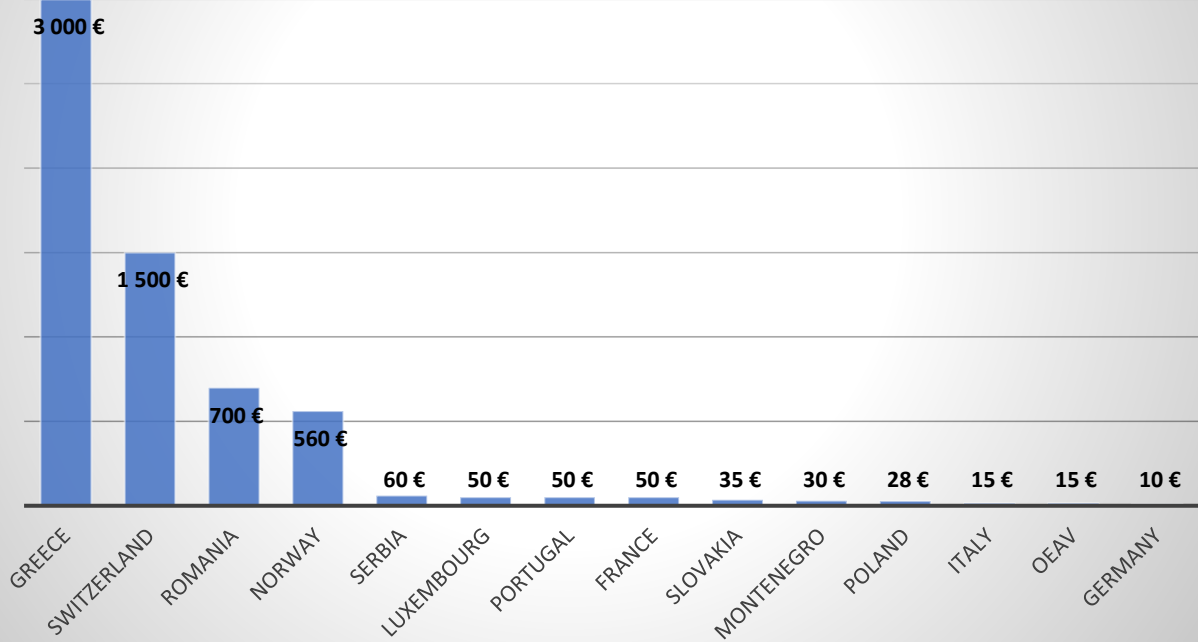
In a specific example of a hiking trail in the Czech Republic, which was 20% new and 80% renovated, 1 km of the new route cost € 550 in light terrain, € 605 in medium-heavy terrain and € 697 in complex terrain. If that was 100% already existing trail, renovation would cost € 491 in light terrain, € 531 in medium-heavy terrain and € 597 in heavy terrain (see appendix 1).



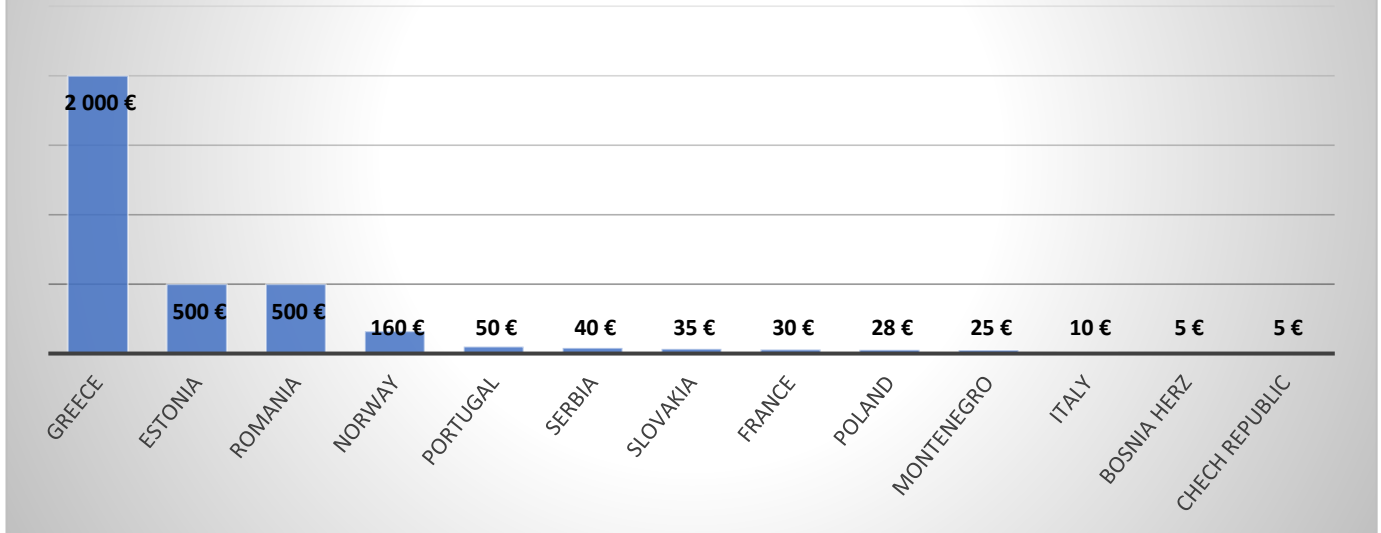
Maintainance cost for trails in mountain range



Maintainance cost for trails in low mountain range



Maintenance cost for trails in lowland range



6.2.18 Are your trails physically marked with signs and signposts?

Three organisations say that not all of their trails are physically marked with signs and signposts whereas 30 organisations confirm the question, one organisation says that the physical marking is not accomplished everywhere. The marking systems of the several organisations are quite divers. Every organisation who answered this question has its own method regarding how and where to mark the trail. What is in common for all of them is the use of signal colours and symbols. Some organisations indicate the difficulty, length of the trail or duration of the hike. A trail can be specified by a number, colour, or symbol. The amount of information given by signs and signposts also varies a lot between the organisations. Some organisations even use guidelines which define standards for marking, for example in the Czech Republic. For the Alps, the Alpine Clubs have established an approved signage.



Example of a sign from the CAI

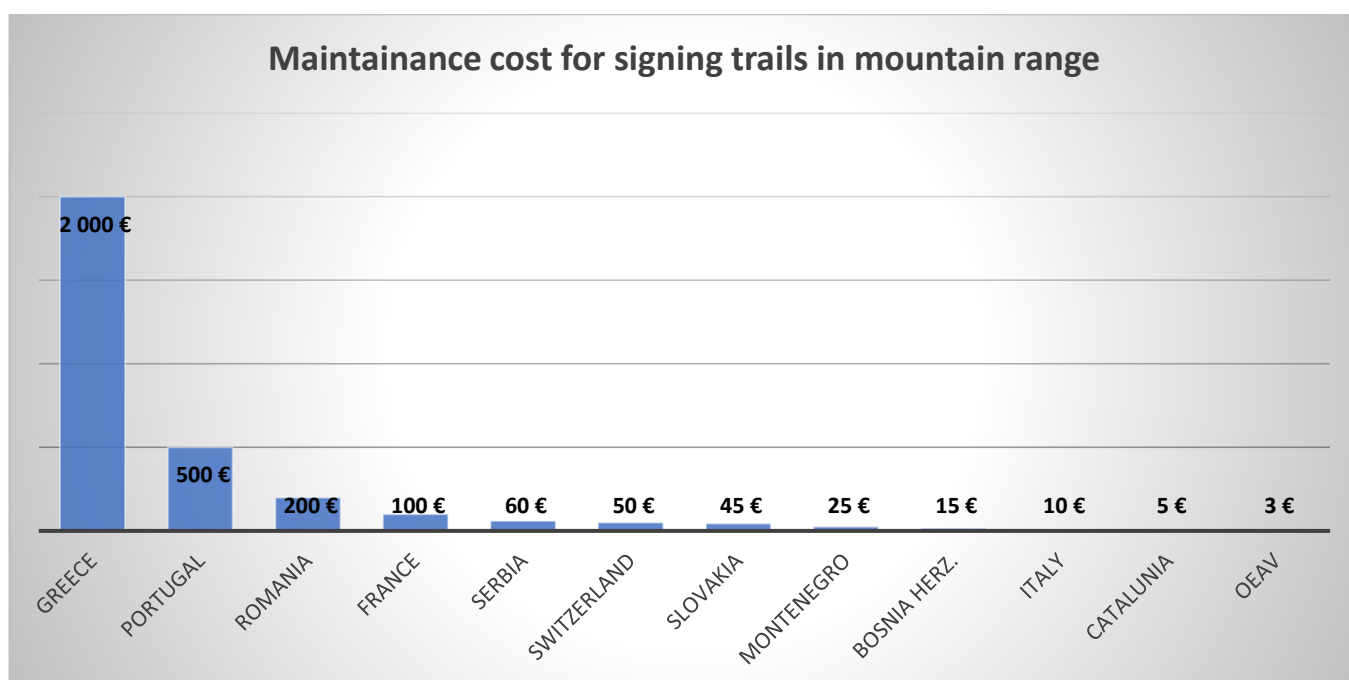
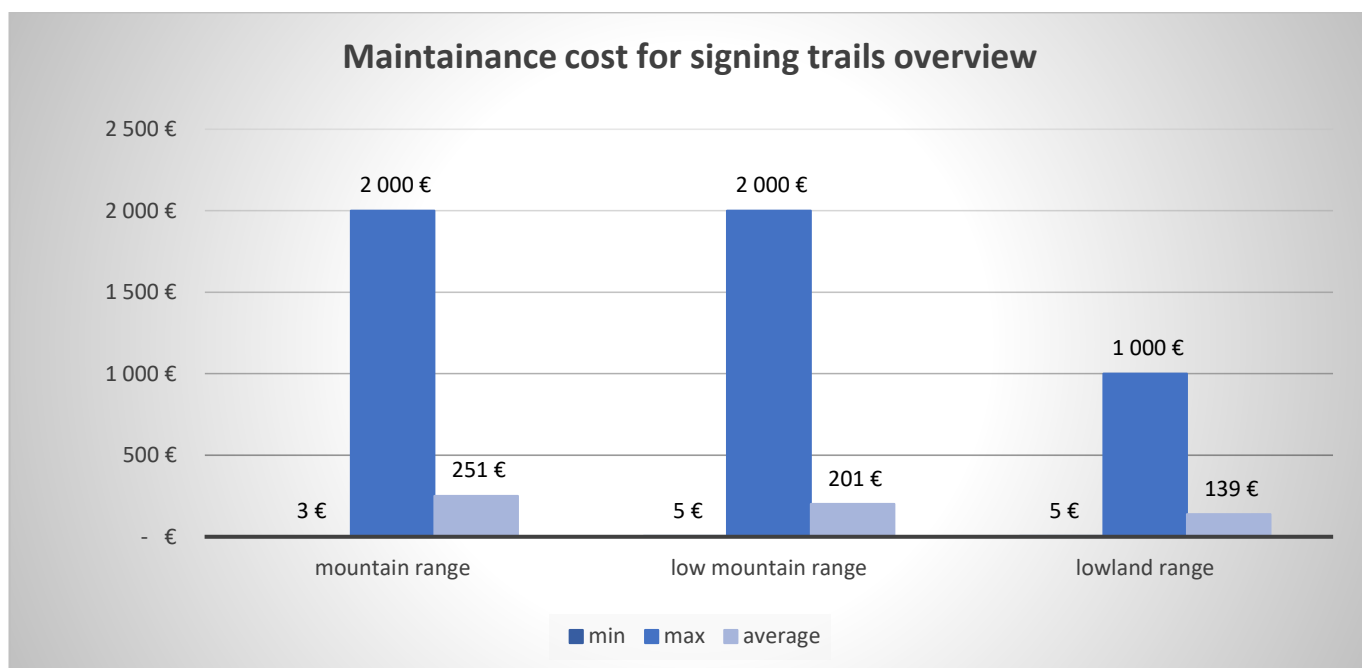
6.2.19 Are signs and signposts of trails maintained frequently?

30 organisations state that they maintain their signs of trails frequently. The maintenance is not done frequently by four organisations. However, three out of these four say the average maintenance period is 3-5 years. The average maintenance period of one year is fulfilled by ten organisations. Nine organisations practice maintenance every three years. The organisations were also asked to describe the scope of maintenance work. Many of them check signs and signposts annually during the inspection of the trails (often at the beginning or the end of the hiking season). When doing this, damages are removed, paths are cleared, vegetation is cut, etc. Though, sometimes not

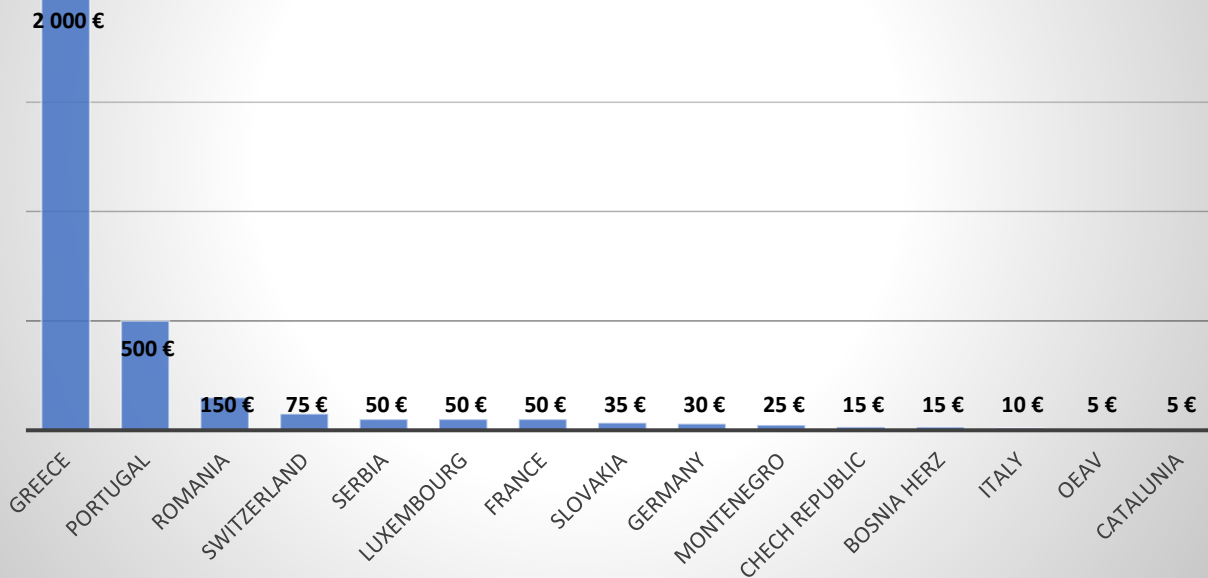
all of the organisation's trails can be checked within a certain period. The Schweizer Wanderwege e. g. also evaluates the information on damages and responses given by hikers to be aware of where repair work is necessary.

6.2.20 What are the average annual costs to maintain the signs and signposts of trails?

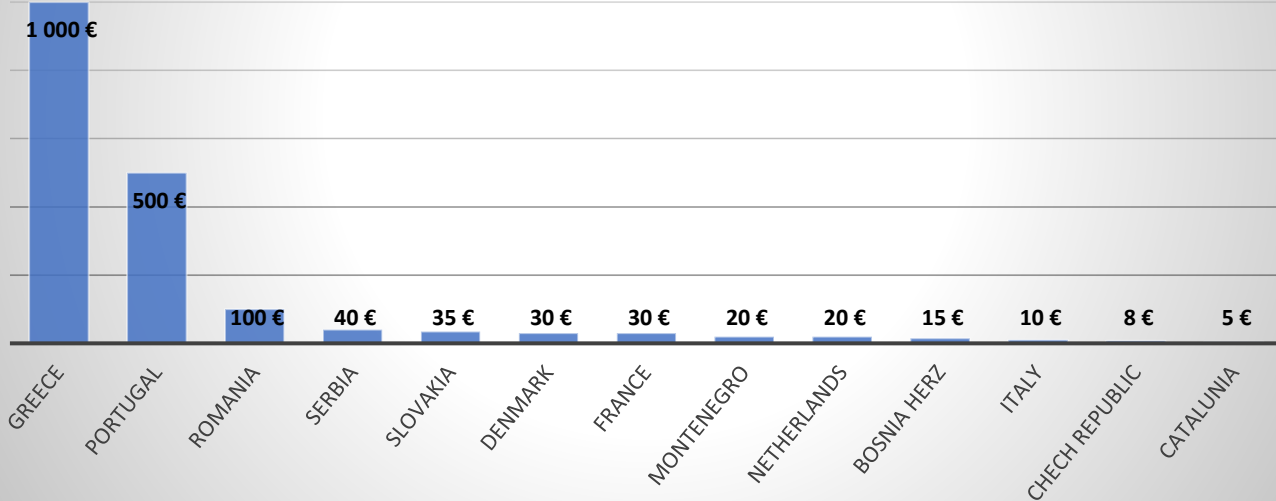
There is a quite big variance concerning the average annual maintenance costs for signs and signposts. 12 organisations name their costs in the mountains and 15 organisations in low mountain range regions. For the lowlands, 13 organisations answered this part of the question. Answers to this question are hard to compare because the organisations have different approaches to this topic, some do not even have data. Others have very precise data as, for example, Switzerland. As maintenance is often carried out by volunteers, personnel costs cannot be numbered. Others receive budget from the state or do the maintenance only when needed.



Maintainance cost for signing trails in low mountain range

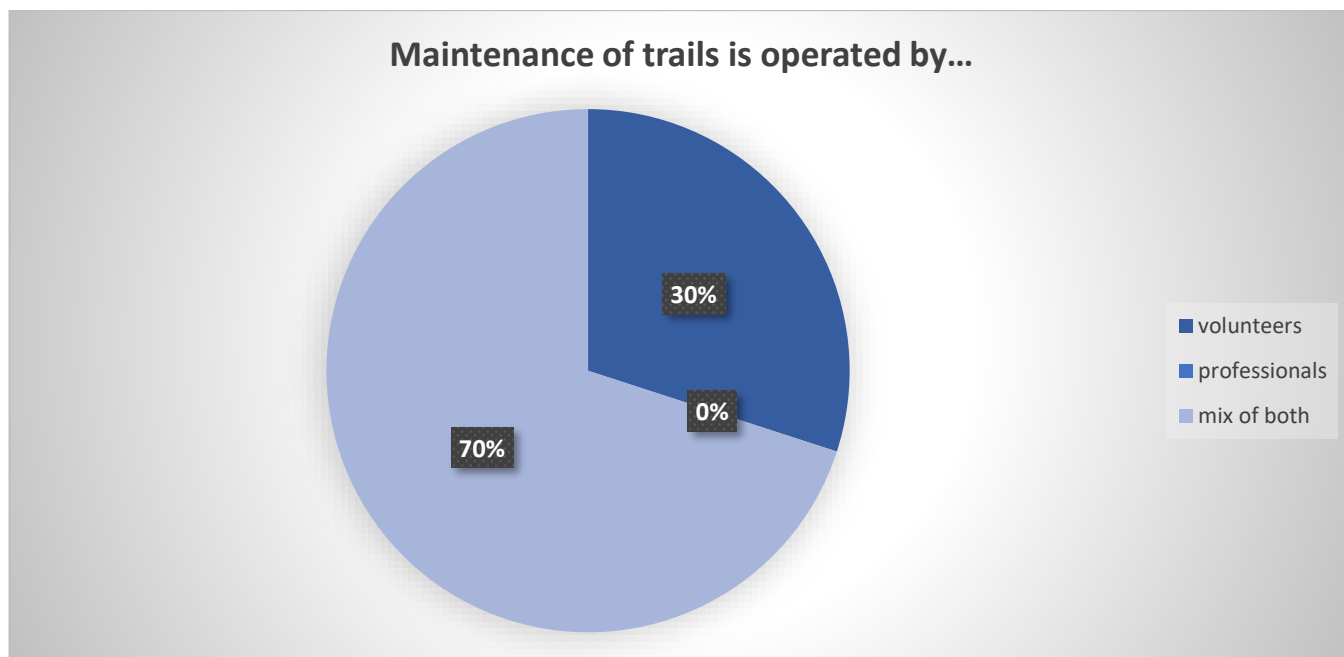


Maintainance cost for signing trails in lowland range



6.2.21 Is the maintenance of trails done by volunteers or professionals?

The maintenance of the trails of ten organisations is performed exclusively by volunteers. None of the organisations surveyed state that only professionals perform the maintenance. 23 organisations have a mix of volunteers and professionals for the trail maintenance. There is a special training for the different steps of trail maintenance in some organisations such as the Alpine Association of Slovenia, for example. The workload of the volunteers can be named by some organisations and must be seen in relation to the number of volunteers. If work is too difficult or special skills are needed, it can also be outsourced in some cases.



6.2.22 Are costs of maintenance and creation of new trails covered by public funding?

Six organisations negate the question about costs being covered by public funding. The costs are fully covered by public funding at six organisations. However, most of the organisations (22) get their costs of maintenance partly covered by public funding. The percentage of coverage varies though. It reaches from 5 - 98%, the average coverage is about 43%. There exist some conditions for covering the costs by public funding and it can depend on the location of the trail or other parameters, whether costs are covered or not. Some organisations have special funds to finance the maintenance, too.

6.2.23 Does your government recognise trails as important infrastructure component for tourism and sport for all, provides sustainable livelihood for the local community?

There is a great deal of contradiction in this matter. In most cases the countries' ministries consider hiking trails as an important structure for territorial development. On the other hand, many say recognition should be compatible with action and steps be taken towards their support, which is not the case. Organisations are making efforts but the response from the government and the institutions is very weak. A law is strongly claimed in the countries concerned.

An exemplary approach is Switzerland, whose survey shows hiking as the most popular sport by far (more than half of the population (56.9%) indicated hiking as one of their sports activities). The naming of hiking in % of the population has changed by 12.6 percentage points from 2014 to 2020. Hiking remains by far the most popular sport and leisure activity in Switzerland. The nationally applicable Footpath and Hiking Trail Law in Switzerland and the corresponding ordinances were created on this basis. In addition, there are also laws and ordinances on a cantonal basis, but these must not break with national legislation.

Yes:	No:	Yes and no	no answer:
27 (75 %)	8 (22 %)	ES	NL, SE

Country / region	Comments
AL	But earthquake and Covid are the most important
AT	It should be more appreciated
BA	It is recognised but not systematic
Cat	There is this recognition but there is still no official law
CH	There is a law concerning hiking trails
De1	Depending on the state, on country level minimum interest to trails
ES	Local and regional public institutions do identify the paths with health, tourism, and local sustainable development. But state public institutions do not
GR	Recognition should be compatible with action and steps taken towards their support, which is not the case in Greece
HR	Government supports through proclamations
IT	A law is strongly claimed by the FIE and by the National Climbing Association (CAI)
PT	The Portuguese State considers walking trails as important structures for territorial development
RS	Government does not recognize trails
SI	Not yet, regardless the law, in some cases from municipal budget
UK	Lobbying for this to be the case post Covid
Cat: Federació d'Entitats Excursionistes de Catalunya (FEEC)	
De1:	Spessartbund e. V.

6.2.24 Has your organisation to agree when new paths are created or changed?

Two thirds of respondents are not asked when a path is created or changed. Some of these countries try to legalize their regulations for marked trails. The problem is not only in changing the location of hiking trails, but especially in changing their surface. In practice, it often happens that the trails are paved under the mistaken assumption that this is desired. Hard flat surface (asphalt, concrete, etc.) on hiking trails is not only harmful to the health of the hiker, but also attracts cyclists and thus increases the risk of injury on both sides.

One third of respondents are involved in changes to their routes. For some of them this only applies to selected routes, European or National paths or otherwise certified routes.

Yes:	No:	Yes and no	no answer:
17 (53 %)	15 (47 %)	CZ, FIE	NL, SE

Country / region	Comments
AL	Organisation doesn't have this power by the law
BA	Through mountaineering regulations documents
BG	Trying to legalize our regulations for trails marking
Cat	It must be approved by all members of the Catalan Committee of Trails plus ratified by board of FEEC directors
CZ	Changing the surface of the routes is not discussed
ES	Only for trails marked with the GR®, PR® and SL®
GR	Only for EU or national paths
HR	HPS is the only one that can approve
HU	We are planning with legislation to create a system where we would be involved in this process
IT	CAI is strongly convinced not to further expand the path network, but to reduce it in order to better protect the mountain environment

IT	FIE may be involved in the general planning, in some circumstances
MA	The Law on Mountain Trails defines the obligations of the Mountaineering Association
MK	They rarely receive information regarding the new trails
PT	Federation as the regulatory body must always authorize (or not) when new GR®, PR® paths are created or changed.
RS	According to the articles in the Rulebook
SK	Organisation is authorised to manage database of marked trails network
Cat: Federació d'Entitats Excursionistes de Catalunya (FEEC)	

On the one side there are organizations, which manage what is related to new trails or trail modifications based on local legislations and/or their internal directives. On the other side, there are organizations reporting a lack of national regulations or a lack of internal regulations regarding the trail management.

6.2.25 Are the landowners and trail keepers exempt from liability when hikers hurt themselves by using trails?

Yes:	No:	Yes and no	no answer:
22 (61 %)	9 (25 %)	IT	DE, PT, HU, NL, NL1, SE

NL1: Stichting Wandelnet

Comments:

AT	Except wilful negligence
Cat	The owners of the land and those in charge of maintaining trails are excluded from any liability in the event of a user's accident
CH	According to the Swiss Federal Law on Footpaths and Hiking Trails (FWG), article 6, the cantons shall ensure that footpaths and hiking trails are built, maintained, and signed and that these paths can be used freely and as safely as possible.
Ch1	In Switzerland, for hiking, the principle of great personal responsibility is central to the practice of this leisure activity. In principle, the municipality is liable as the owner of the works.
CZ	The forest owner is responsible for his forest. Otherwise, trails lead mostly on public roads.
DE	Hikers and bicyclists use the trails at their own risk. DAV holds the liability on the trails. The landowners are exempt from liability. Otherwise, they would not agree to the use of their land by hikers. The DAV's liability on trails is limited to hazards caused by the failure of artificial structures as railings, stairs, bridges ...
De1	There are judgements of the federal court of justice (BGH) that clearly define the self-responsibility of users of the trails.
EE	In some cases, trail keepers are liable.
ES	The owners are exempt from liability, because the GR®, PR® and SL® trails run on public roads. There is also a responsibility of the "trail promoter" regarding the maintenance of the trail.
FR	In which region (geographically) is that trail network located
GR	Not if it leads to a shelter.
BA, HR, MK	Generally, everyone uses the trails at their own risk
IT	Yes, for public administration
LX	A state insurance for all trails nationwide should cover most damages
MA	The trails are used at the users' own risk. The use of unpaved trails is not recommended especially in the zone of national parks
NO	If we arrange the hiking routes in a dangerous way, we must take responsibility

PT	This issue raises complex legal problems. We can say that if the responsibility for the accident is due to inadequate maintenance of the walking trail, responsibilities may be added.		
SI	If trails are maintained according to law. The Law also states that mountaineering trails are used on the hikers' own risk.		
SK	Risk of injury during the hiking is personal risk of hiker		
UK	Unless it is as a result of poorly maintained access furniture		
Cat: Federació d'Entitats Excursionistes de Catalunya (FEEC)			
CH1:	Berner		Wanderwege
De1:	Spessartbund e. V.		

In general, hikers use trails at their own risk, and trail keepers and owners must properly maintain trails and property.

In some cases, public roads are applied for trails.

6.2.26 Are your trails in accordance with the European Green Deal and the Sustainable Development Goals?

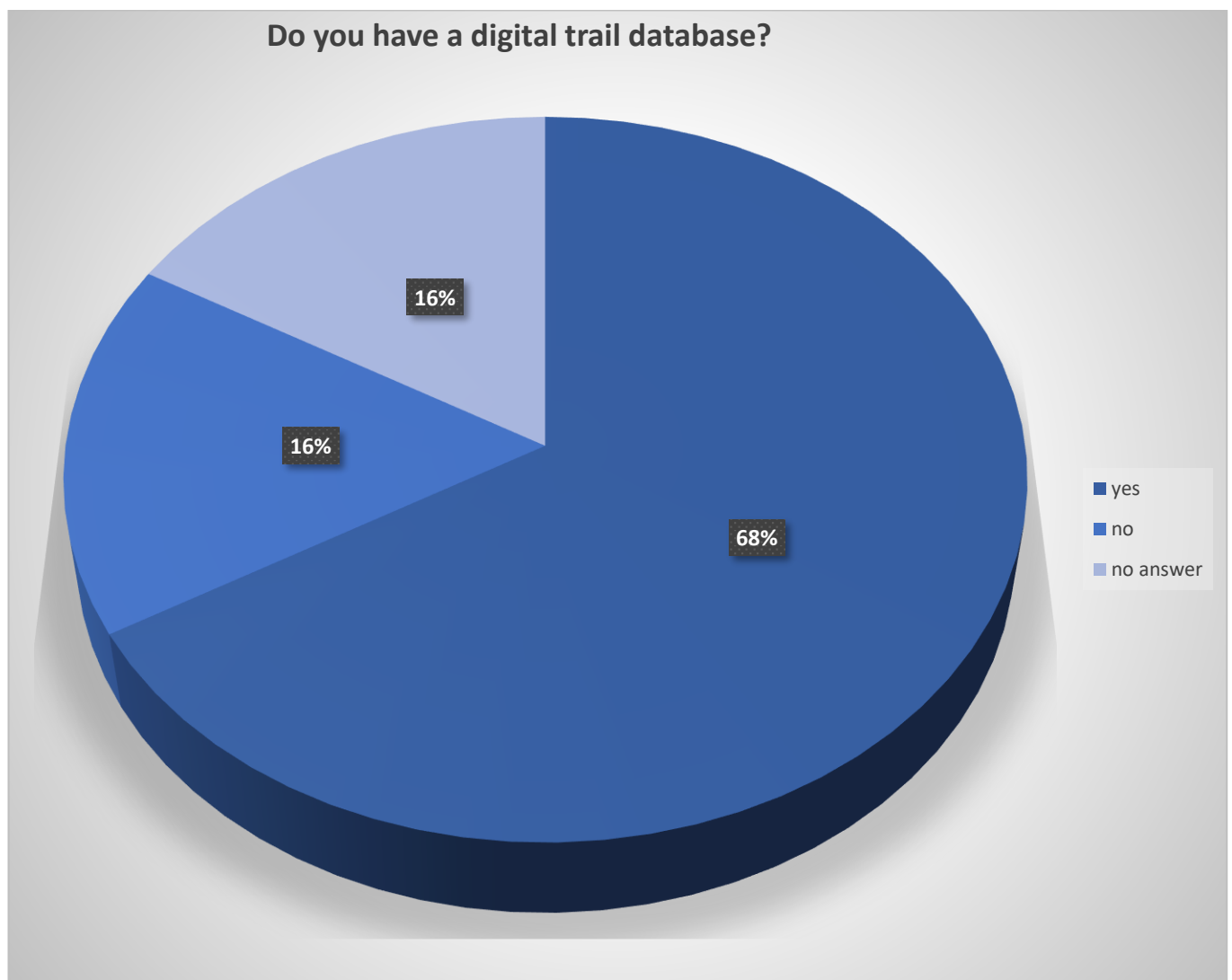
Yes:	No:	Yes and no	no answer:
20 (56 %)	9 (25 %)	ES	BE1, IT, DE, FR, MK, NL, SE

Comments

AL, NL1	We don't have this information
Cat	All approved trails must always use environmentally friendly materials and have their impact on the natural environment as little as possible
CH	Switzerland isn't a member of the EU.
EE,	I suppose
ES	It depends on whether the "trail promoter" follows the European Green Deal and Sustainable Development Goals
HR	Mountain trails are carried out in accordance with the general principles of nature and environmental protection. When tracing, building, maintaining, and preserving mountaineering trails, special attention is paid to the protection of nature and the environment
IT	We have no data on the question
LV	Those who are in Kemer National Park are. It depends if there are but mostly only in National parks.
MA	Compliance was done with the Law on Mountain Trails, which is harmonized by the Government at the proposal of the relevant Ministry
PT	We highlight the program "Walk for your health and the health of the planet -Limit your impact when rambling: equipment, transport, food, and environment ", and the program "Mountain Activities –ecological footprint?"
RS	In general, yes.
Tra	Not all of them, in fact quite a few.
Cat: Federació d'Entitats Excursionistes de Catalunya (FEEC)	
BE1: Asbl Sentiers de Grande Randonnée	
Tra: Erdélyi Kárpát-Egyesület / Siaciateatea Carpatină Ardeleană / Transylvanian Carpathian Society	

In general, European Green Deal and the Sustainable Development Goals are not clear enough and most organisations cannot see their role in this proposal.

6.2.27 Do you have a digital trail database?



In most of the countries there are more or less developed databases. However, with the process of digitalization, further work is necessary for the full integration of the hiking trails. In some of the countries, there are no official databases by the state, but there are still some types of databases and path applications developed by various associations and individuals. If we talk about official databases of mountaineering associations whose main interest is mountaineering, only a few countries have systematized access to registered mountaineering trails with complete data, which are published on their websites. Some of the countries that use path databases are of different types and they are mostly paths that are promoted from a tourism standpoint and contain different data that are systematized with a different approach.

Comments:

Belgium: Asbl Sentiers de Grande Randonnée

We have a database in the cloud, and we offer web services like WFS and WMS.

BIH: Mountaineering Union of Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina

The mountaineering association does not have a digital network of hiking trails. Only individuals and different citizens' associations have digital trails which have free access.

Croatia: Croatian Mountaineering Association

Since 2013 the Register of mountaineering trails, mountaineering transversals, and markers in Croatia with accompanying contents, which is edited by the CMA is publicly available (<https://info.hps.hr/putovi>). There are currently 1,480 registered mountaineering trails. Their average length is 4.5 km, and the average altitude difference

is 290 m. About 50 trails are missing in the Register, and 100 of them do not have complete data (GNSS track is missing). In addition, for now 4 trails that are not marked in the field with standard markings but are used exclusively with the support of satellite navigation (e-trails). In addition to data on trails, the Register contains other information of interest to the work of the CMA, such as persons trained for trail maintenance, inspection of transversals, etc. The Register also contains supporting contents and data that facilitate the work of the CMA. Two years ago, the public Interactive mountaineering map was made and offered to the public based on data from the Register. In addition to showing mountaineering trails, it also offers other interesting contents for hikers such as mountaineering facilities, information about transversals, mountain peaks, drinking water sources, caves, etc. (<https://www.hps.hr/karta>). It is worth noting that these applications are the result of the work of enthusiasts, mainly members and associates of the CMA, created and filled with data entirely by voluntary work without compensation. This reflects the approach of many people doing this socially useful work and represents a unique civilizational reach worth cultivating.

Czech Republic: Czech Tourist Club

Digital records and drawings - we provide these to municipalities with extended powers. We have records of recorded routes kept in an internal database system. Drawings in the OCAD system.

Germany: German Rambler´ Association / Spessartbund

A web-based application is used that supports management of the trail network. Routes, trail keepers, responsible volunteers, cost carriers and signposts are kept in this database.

Greece: Hellenic Federation of Mountaineering and Climbing Greece

In a few mainly local paths (GPS tracking: From Wikiloc).

Hungary: Hungarian Hikers Association

We got the right to register all the trails in the forests last year. So, a digital trail database is under development.

Italy: Italian Alpine Club

CAI is building a database of trails called Infomont. The individual sections are responsible for finding the GPS data for the areas of competence.

Italy: Italian Hiking Federation

We are developing a Database of E-paths in Italy and other FIE paths. An application both, for PC and smartphone will soon be available.

Latvia: Latvia Kurzeme Planning Region

We have the homepage baltictrails.eu, now there are 2 trails that cover 3 Baltic States.

North Macedonia: Mountaineering Federation of North Macedonia

Basic GPS tracks with short info are posted on www.planinarskipateki.mk. The database is not complete.

Norway: Norwegian Trekking Association

The website UT.no is a trip planner for everyone who wants to travel in Norway. For the mountains, in the woods and by the sea. Here you will find marked routes, tour suggestions, cabins, and destinations, as well as useful services that make it easier for more people to get out on a trip. UT.no is a service from the Norwegian Tourist Association, with content from a large number of other teams, organizations, municipalities and others that make it easier for more people to get out and about.

Poland: Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society

We have approx. 90% of PTTK hiking trails digitalized. Almost 7,000 km are available for tourists on www map and mobile application.

Portugal: Portuguese Federation of Camping and Mountaineering

Our platform consists of a portal, a website and an APP (in several languages) that communicate with each other. The platform is based on web 3.0 technology, is the backbone of our system, allows communication between users

(federated and non-federated), promoters, companies, government entities, emergency and rescue entities, among others. In face of COVID-19, the launch of the new system was postponed to 2021, as there is a whole communication strategy that involves advertising (video clips) on television, social networks, among other initiatives, to captivate national and foreign users.

Romania: Romania Alpine Club

There is an app “muntii nostri” with trails from the mountains. Also, some other digital sources.

Serbia: Mountaineering Association of Serbia

We have a digital database from the last several years. After control by MAS a trail is registered and it enters into the database. Work on it is continuous. One can see it with the link: <https://pss.rs/planinarski-objekti-i-tereni/tereni/?tip=planinarski-putevi> ;

The territory of Serbia is divided into 8 mountain regions. This division is the basis for trails signification.

Slovenia: Alpine Association of Slovenia

Alpine Association has a digital base with routes and attributes like keepers etc. At this moment, we are preparing new GIS called PlanGIS that will have even more information relevant for hikers. The trail network is also embedded in economic public infrastructure of Republic of Slovenia.

Spain: Federation of Hiking Entities of Catalonia

Any trail project, in order to obtain the homologation must provide the track of the same in computer support. We currently have the FEEC trail website (<senders.feec.cat>), where we provide all the tracks from the network of approved trails in Catalonia in four different formats (GPX / KMZ / PLT / TRK). The fact of providing these tracks from the FEEC, is synonymous with the fact that the track is correct, up-to-date and corresponds to what is signposted on the ground. We offer tracks for all GR®, PR®, SL® and GR-T®.

Spain: Spanish Federation of Mountaineering and Climbing Sports

There are two systems. The FEDME has a trail finder. There is a file for each trail where the gpx / kmz file can be downloaded for free. The route is presented on a map (orthophoto, topographic map and google); profile of the excursion; technical information (length, estimated time in two directions, highest point, lowest point, accumulated ascent difference, unevenness accumulated descent, if you are travelling through a National or Natural Park, if it is a European Path, etc.), the indication of the MIDE difficulty, two photos, the indication of elements of interest on the route, etc. Through a tab "More information" you go to the website of the regional federation where there is more information. The trails can be searched by location, by technical data, by elements of interest, etc. <https://misendafedme.es/buscador-de-senderos/etapa/pr-av-9-camino-de-piedralaves> Some regional federations have trail finders, in different ways. All the data in the FEDME are those that appear in the search engines of the regional federations or have been provided by these federations.

Switzerland: Berner Wanderwege

In Switzerland there are different data bases. In the Canton of Berne, we, the Berner Wanderwege (Bernese Hiking Trails Association), are the system operator of the platform GoWalk (administrative tool for route and signpost planning) and the municipalities and the Canton are users of the platform.

Switzerland: Schweizer Wanderwege

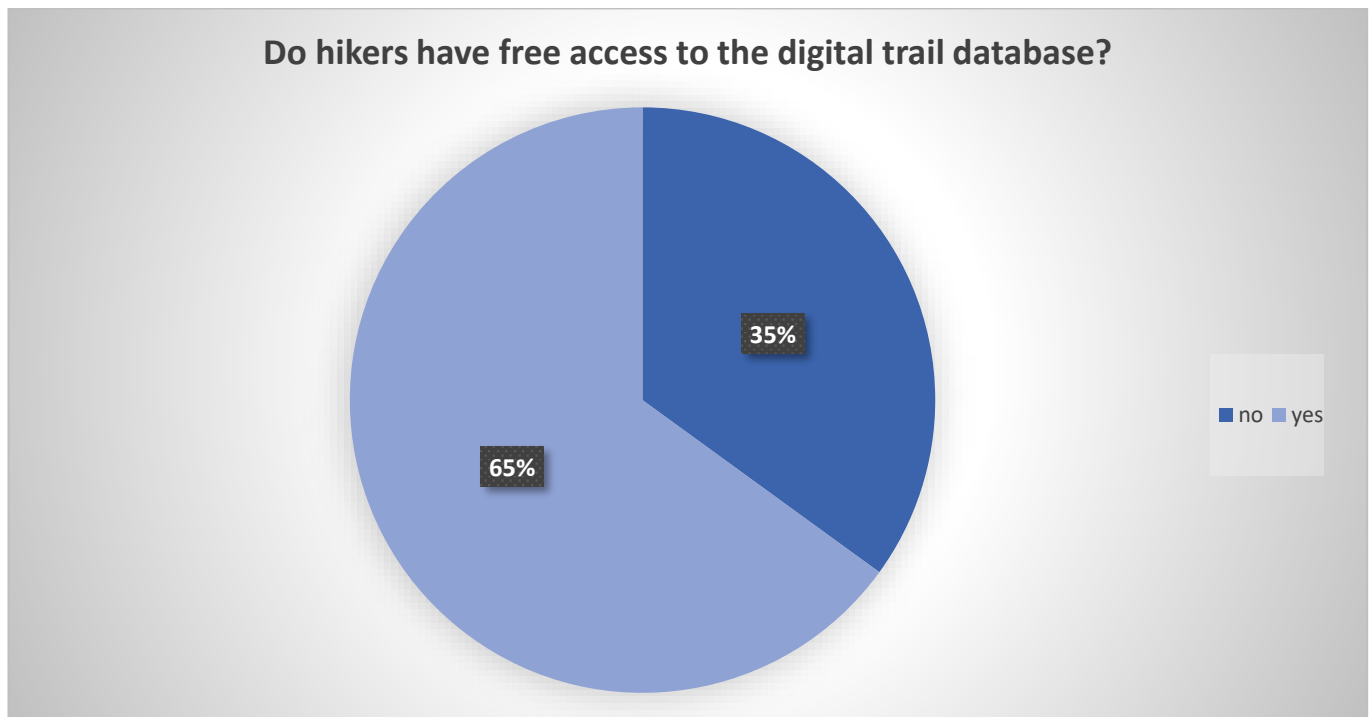
All officially signed hiking trails are shown on swisstopo. The data base is updated annually, if possible, for all cantons:

https://map.geo.admin.ch/mobile.html?topic=ech&lang=en&bgLayer=ch.swisstopo.pixelkarte-farbe&layers=ch.swisstopo.swisstlm3d-wanderwege&E=2609605.80&N=1103079.94&zoom=3&layers_opacity=0.8

Romania: Transylvanian Carpathian Society

The trails our members have hiked and tracked are stored in a database.

6.2.28 Do hikers have free access to the digital trail database.



In most of the countries, the access for free download of the hiking trails is provided in different types and formats. In some countries, however, these are not official sources offering that service, but are in close cooperation with providers that offer such services. However, in a small number of countries the digital database with hiking trails has not been implemented yet, but they are under construction. Part of the databases of the hiking trails are also located on commercial web portals where the access to the trails is possible upon payment of a certain fee.

Albania: Albanian Mountaineering Association

We do not have yet digital database. We are working on it.

Belgium: Asbl Sentiers de Grande Randonnée

Only GPX files on our website.

BIH: Mountaineering Union of Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina

The mountaineering association does not have a digital network of hiking trails.

Croatia: Croatian Mountaineering Association

Access to digital databases is free of charge. The only condition is that when publishing data from the Register, the source and date of download are stated. CMA have information that this data is used (and makes the appropriate financial profit) by travel agencies that guide tourists, individuals or associations that organise various long-distance walks, make detailed maps of individual areas with marked mountaineering trails and charge for their download, etc. We know that some projects that used free data from the Register were realised and financed by the Erasmus Fund.

Czech Republic: Czech Tourist Club

The public does not have access to our internal databases, but they have access to the great www.Mapy.cz portal, with which we cooperate.

Germany: German Alpine Club

The trail database is a tool for tour-planning for a variety of mountain sports.

Germany: German Rambler Association / Spessartbund

There is no transfer of our records to publicly usable systems

Italy: Italian Alpine Club

There is a webpage under construction. <https://infomont.cai.it/Sentieri/loader.html?ProjectID=CAI>

Italy: Italian Hiking Federation

The trail database is a dynamic web-based application based on OSM data, enriched with a set of technical, touristic and historical and cultural information, easily maintained by people that does not have to be i.t. competencies.

Latvia: Latvia Kurzeme Planning Region

We promote the trail database in social media, tourism fairs and different events. All are welcome to use them.

North Macedonia: Mountaineering Federation of North Macedonia

Free access on www.planinarskipateki.mk. Download of the GPS and KMZ track is free and its official and certified trails from Mountain Trail Commission. The web page is not an official page of FPSM, and it is private financed.

Norway: Norwegian Trekking Association

The website UT.no is a trip planner for everyone who wants to travel in Norway. For the mountains, in the woods and by the sea. Here you will find marked routes, tour suggestions, cabins, and destinations, as well as useful services that make it easier for more people to get out on a trip. UT.no is a service from the Norwegian Tourist Association, with content from a large number of other teams, organizations, municipalities and others that make it easier for more people to get out and about.

Poland: Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society

We provide to hikers data of approx. 15,000 km of trails of every kind (including 7,000 km of PTTK hiking trails) on the trail cyber platform: www map, touristic website and mobile applications.

Portugal: Portuguese Federation of Camping and Mountaineering

The system is free for all users (federated and non-federated), with the Federated having access to more options than the others.

Serbia: Mountaineering Association of Serbia

Hikers have free access to the database, without possibility to change it. The changes are exclusive right of MAS. Everyone can make remarks on the accuracy of database.

Slovenia: Alpine Association of Slovenia

Free access on internet to look at the routes and who are their keepers.

Spain: Federation of Hiking Entities of Catalonia

Yes, anyone has access to the information on the tracks on the FEEC trails website, but the option to download them is only enabled for those users who have the FEEC's annual federal sports license.

Spain: Spanish Federation of Mountaineering and Climbing Sports

Access is free for all hikers (whether Spanish or foreign). There is a FEDME policy that the trail finder has access from other websites; at present it is in the National Geographic Institute, in the Vías Verdes Foundation (trails on old railroad tracks) and on various websites of the regional federations.

Switzerland: Berner Wanderwege

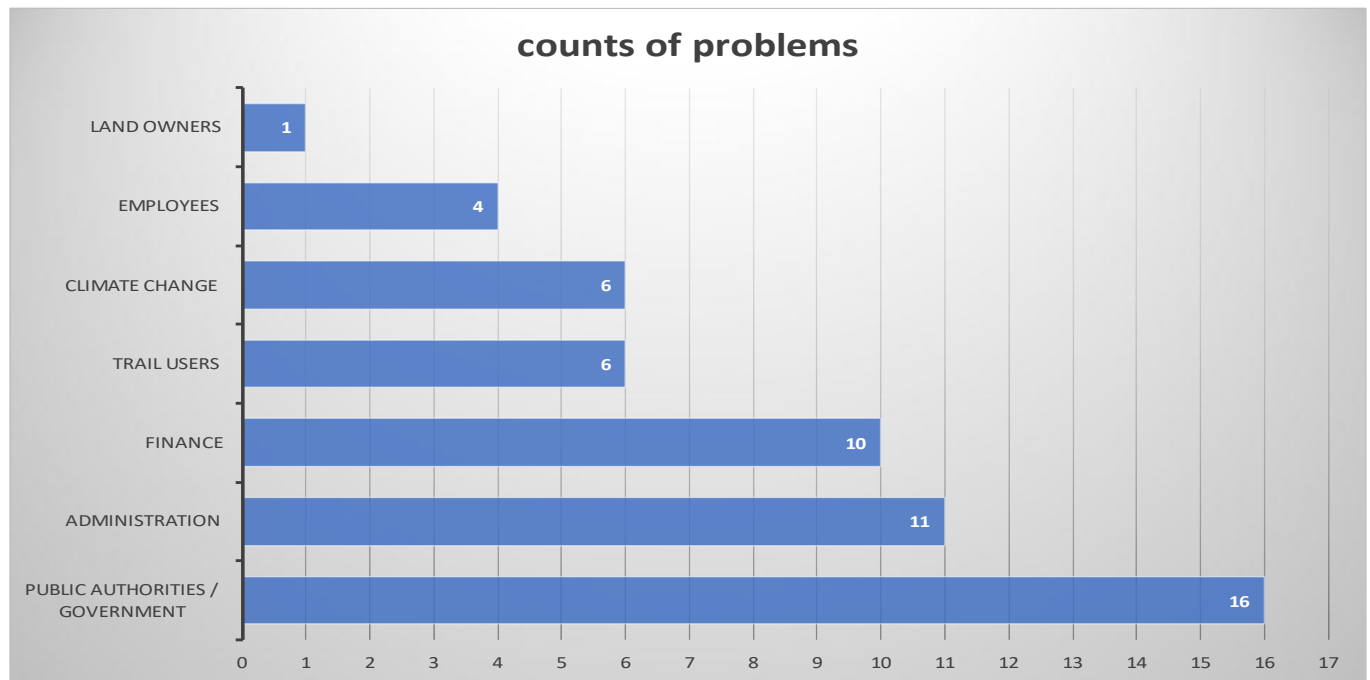
There are various public planning tools such as wanderplaner.ch from the Bernese Hiking Trails Association.

Switzerland: Schweizer Wanderwege

Every person has access to the digital trail database, cf. question above. If someone asks for selected hiking suggestions, there are different providers that mostly charge fees for this service (e.g., via subscription).

6.2.29 Describe your main issues / problems in connection with your trails.

Our MOs were asked what they see as their main difficulties in managing their network of trails. 20 of them described their specific problem areas.



Authorities:

- Little involvement of public administrations.
- Inadequate legal status, faulty coordination and management by many bodies which causes overlapping of duties and responsibilities.
- Our plan and wish are to realise a law on mountaineering and hiking trails.
- This problem is the same as for construction of the new and maintenance of the existing trails.
- Unclear laws.
- Reducing the role of NGOs.
- Challenge is to get the authorities to approve the work.
- Insufficient support of state and local authorities for sustainable work of clubs.
- Insufficient equipment and professional training of expert commissions and clubs for the implementation of tasks and obligations determined by law.
- Legal restrictions under the Law on Sports (financing exclusively of sports activities).
- The line Ministries of Tourism, Planning and Spatial Protection and others do not invest enough effort, except declaratively, for the sustainability of the work of MAM on the issue of management, use and maintenance of resources in mountaineering (especially on the development of mountaineering infrastructure).
- Constant struggle for permeability of the landscape (insufficient legislation for the protection of marked hiking trails). Due to insufficient legislative protection of routes, the owner of the land can the route at any time (e.g., fences, plowing the route...).
- The approval of a new trail is difficult especially in the hill area and lowlands. The law is old, and the approval needs to be made with mountain rescue agreement. In the areas where we don't have mountains, we don't have mountain rescue for this approval and need to find other solutions.
- We don't have a central state platform for all the trails.
- No government support/strategy for extending and maintaining the trails, huts, refuge. Just local administration, and some projects.
- Main challenge is to get the authorities to approve the work. Hiking routes are very important for public health.

Administration:

- High administrative effort to certificate the annual inspection.
- For more of 50% of registered trails we have no GPS tracks.
- HPS has about 1/3 member societies and clubs that do not participate in maintenance of the basic mountaineering infrastructure - mountaineering trails.
- Challenge with the hiking routes is maintenance.
- The small number of clubs and the structure of club membership.
- Missing database
- No standards
- The main problem is the large number of kilometres that need to be maintained.
- There is not a single national contact person for the maintenance of paths because the responsibility lies at the regional level.
- At the European level, a harmonization of the protocols would be desirable.
- The biggest problem we face is to ensure the proper maintenance of the quality of the walking trails approved by the Federation.

Finance:

- Financing maintenance is a real problem.
- It is one of the key areas of countryside management that has seen its resources (both staff and money) be stripped over the past few years.
- It is not deemed an important area of work by the current Government and central funding has been cut dramatically.
- Lack of money, budget.
- No founding of maintenance costs
- Challenge with the hiking routes is economy.
- Sources and co-financing of MAM and clubs in the field of mountaineering are not defined at the state level in accordance with the adopted strategy.
- Financing (permanent and transparent) of international cooperation in the field of mountaineering MAM is not defined who is the holder.
- No funding by government.
- No funds available to complete our paths network.

Trail users

- More people are using the trails than used to do, so informing the public is also an important goal.
- The newcomers are not familiar with hiking culture in Slovenia, markings and how to use the marked trails (obligatory mountain wear, not using the shortcuts, taking the trash with you to the valley and recycling etc.
- Overtourism in certain regions causes damage to nature. We will put big effort into information and education, to make hikers aware of the vulnerability of nature. In addition, we will offer attractive destinations in less overrun regions.
- Heavy traffic at some hiking destinations.
- Bikers on hiking trails.
- Channelling traffic to the right places, heavy traffic at some hiking destinations.

Climate change

- Increasing frequency of natural disasters and erosion are a challenge.
- Climate change will increase damage to trails, through mudflow, rockfall or landslides. The decrease of glaciers will change the accessibility of summits. Some trails will disappear forever.
- Pressure from the environmental side on outdoor and recreational activities gets bigger regarding the NATURA 2000 area (1/3 of our forest) and other nature protection areas.
- Challenge with wear and tear.
- Another problem is climate change with increasingly frequent extreme weather events.
- Bark beetle calamity: the trees on which there are markings are disappearing.

Employees

- High fluctuation of employees.
- Lack of volunteer hikers to keep the signage with paint.
- It is increasingly difficult to motivate hikers to volunteer (free of charge) to maintain mountaineering trails.

Landowners

- Cuts or modifications of paths by owners or public administrations without warning and without creating an alternative route.

7 Overall summary

The existence of hiking trails is taken for granted by the population, as is their free use.

In times of pandemic, the pressure on users increases immensely, as hiking is one of the few leisure activities in the great outdoors that may still be practised. Hiking increases people's well-being and promotes their health. However, hiking trails also offer the possibility to direct visitor flows and to protect our fauna and flora where necessary.

As a result of the survey, it can be stated that there are only few commonalities in the countries of Europe regarding hiking trails. These include the existence of a more or less closely meshed network of paths and the fact that this is always physically marked with signs and signposts.

The majority of the paths can be used free of charge, without special knowledge and do not require any special training or equipment.

In all other areas of trail infrastructure, there is a colourful diversity.

This begins, for all to see, with the type and system of waymarking. The information on the degree of difficulty or the quality of a hiking trail is also not uniform. This leads to considerable confusion when using long-distance hiking trails.

Among other things, there are no or different regulations on who is allowed to mark trails, how they are to be maintained and who is liable for damage while using them.

Trails are created in an uncoordinated way by all kinds of associations and their sustainability is insufficiently ensured. Also, there is almost no trail register in which all trails are listed with their basic data.

NGOs that try to counteract this with voluntary work receive inadequate support from the governments, neither legally nor financially.

7.1

Appendix

7.1.1

Budget for a 50km long hiking trail in Czech Republic

Budget for a 50km long hiking trail														
ACTIVE FIELDS THAT CAN BE CHANGE	BLUE		LIGHT BLUE		LIGHT TERRAIN		MEDIUM TERRAIN		HEAVY / COMPLEX TERRAIN		Exchange rate € k 16.2. 2021	25,76		
	Length of the hiking trail in km	50	50	50	Entire route is new	Entire route is just a repair	Variation 20% + 80%	Entire route is new	Entire route is just a repair	Variation 20% + 80%			Entire route is new	Entire route is just a repair
Hiking trail														
100% = 50 km														
PROJECT / specification of necessary supplies and works and negotiations with owners	256 667	51 333	73 333	58 667	303 333	60 667	86 667	69 333	130 000	350 000	70 000	100 000	80 000	150 000
Work of destination management (securing financing, ensuring cooperation between cities and municipalities and obtaining grants)	214 400	214 400	214 400	214 400	214 400	214 400	214 400	214 400	214 400	214 400	214 400	214 400	214 400	214 400
BUILDINGS	300 000	60 000	100 000	80 000	400 000	80 000	133 333	106 667	186 667	600 000	120 000	200 000	160 000	280 000
Route furniture (rest areas,...)	140 000	28 000	70 000	14 000	140 000	28 000	70 000	14 000	42 000	140 000	28 000	70 000	14 000	42 000
INFO. BOARDS 6x large, 6x small	180 000	36 000	66 000	52 800	180 000	36 000	66 000	52 800	88 800	180 000	36 000	66 000	52 800	88 800
Small information signs (services, source)	39 000	39 000	39 000	39 000	39 000	39 000	39 000	39 000	39 000	39 000	39 000	39 000	39 000	39 000
SIGNPOST (tourist information point)	32 500	6 500	16 875	13 500	32 500	6 500	16 875	13 500	20 000	32 500	6 500	16 875	13 500	20 000
MARKING	25 000	5 000	17 500	14 000	25 000	5 000	17 500	14 000	19 000	25 000	5 000	17 500	14 000	19 000
Route control (double control), est.	35 000	35 000	35 000	35 000	40 000	40 000	40 000	40 000	40 000	45 000	45 000	45 000	45 000	45 000
TOTAL route without certification	1 222 568	475 233	632 108	521 367	1 374 234	509 567	683 775	563 700	779 867	1 625 901	563 900	768 775	632 700	898 200
Price of 1 km route in CZK	24 451		12 642	14 164	27 485	13 676	15 597	32 518	15 376	32 518	15 376	15 376	17 964	17 964
Price of 1 km route in €	949		491	550	1 067	531	605	1 262	597	1 262	597	597	697	697
CERTIFICATION - LEADING QUALITY TRAIL - BEST OF EUROPE														
Certification - the work of a certifier + brand + promotion	75 103		75 103	75 103	75 103	75 103	75 103	75 103	75 103	75 103	75 103	75 103	75 103	75 103
Certification - travel cost for 2 certifier	10 304		10 304	10 304	10 304	10 304	10 304	10 304	10 304	10 304	10 304	10 304	10 304	10 304
Promotion	300 000		300 000	300 000	300 000	300 000	300 000	300 000	300 000	300 000	300 000	300 000	300 000	300 000
TOTAL CERTIFICATION	385 407		385 407	385 407	385 407	385 407	385 407	385 407	385 407	385 407	385 407	385 407	385 407	385 407
TOTAL route with cert.	1 607 975		1 017 516	1 093 607	1 759 642		1 069 182		1 165 274	2 011 308		1 154 182		1 283 607
Price of 1 km route in CZK	32 159		20 350	21 872	35 193	21 872	23 305	40 226	23 305	40 226	23 305	23 084	25 672	25 672
Price of 1 km route in €	1 248		790	849	1 366	830	905	1 562	896	1 562	896	896	997	997

7.1.2 List of abbreviations used in this document

AL	Albania
AT	Austria
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina
BE1	Asbl Sentiers de Grande Randonnée (SGR)
BG	Bulgaria
BIH/FBIH	Planinarski Savez Federacije Bosne Hercegovine Mountaineering Union of Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina
BTU	Български туристически съюз Bulgarian Tourist Union
CAI	Club Alpino Italiano Italian Alpine Club
CAR	Clubului Alpin Român Romanian Alpine Club
Cat.	Federació d'Entitats Excursionistes de Catalunya Catalan Mountaineering and Climbing Federation (FEEC)
CH	Switzerland
CH1	Berner Wanderwege Bernese Hiking Trails Association
CHS	Český horolezecký svaz Czech Mountaineering Federation
CMA	Hrvatski planinarske savez (HPS) Croatian Mountaineering Association
CUNI	Charles University Prague
CZ	Czech Republic
DAV	Deutscher Alpenverein German Alpine Club
DE	Germany
De1	Spessartbund e. V.
DNT	Den Norske Turistforening The Norwegian Trekking Association
DWV	Deutscher Wanderverband German Ramblers' Association
EE	Estonia
EOOA	Ελληνική Ομοσπονδία Ορειβασίας Αναρρίχησης Hellenic Federation of Mountaineering and Climbing
ERA	European Ramblers' Association
ES	Spain
EU	European Union
EUMA	European Union of Mountaineering Associations
FCMP	Federação de Campismo e Montanhismo de Portugal Portuguese Federation of Camping and Mountaineering
FEEC	Federació d'Entitats Excursionistes de Catalunya Federation of Hikers' Associations of Catalonia
FIE	Federazione Italiana Escursionismo Italian Hiking Federation
FPSM	Федерација за планинарство на Северна Македонија Mountaineering Federation of North Macedonia
FR	France
GPS	Global Positioning System
GR	Greece

GR®	Long distance hiking trail
HPS	Hrvatski planinarski savez Croatian Mountaineering Association
HR	Croatia
HU	Hungary
IT	Italy
KCT	Klub českých turistů Czech Tourist Club
LQT-BE	Leading Quality Trail – Best of Europe
LX	Luxembourg
m.a.s.l.	Meter above sea level
MA	Malta
MAM	Planinarski savez Crne Gore (PSCG) Mountaineering Association of Montenegro
ME	Montenegro
MK	North Macedonia
MO	Member organisation
MTB	Mountain-Bike
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NL	Netherlands
NO	Norway
OeAV	Österreichischer Alpenverein Austrian Alpine Club
PR®	Short distance hiking trail
PSS	Planinarski savez Srbije Mountaineering Association of Serbia
PT	Portugal
PTTK	Polskie Towarzystwo Turystyczno-Krajoznawcze Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society
PZS	Planinska Zveza Slovenije Alpine Association of Slovenia
RO	Romania
RS	Serbia
SAC	Schweizer Alpen Club Swiss Alpine Club
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SE	Sweden
SI	Slovenia
SK	Slovakia
Tra	Erdélyi Kárpát-Egyesület Transylvanian Carpathian Society
UK	United Kingdom

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- ✓ Alpine Association of Slovenia
- ✓ Austrian Alpine Club
- ✓ Charles University
- ✓ Czech Mountaineering Federation
- ✓ European Ramblers' Association
- ✓ German Alpine Club
- ✓ Hellenic Federation of Mountaineering and Climbing
- ✓ Mountaineering Federation of North Macedonia