# ERASMUS+ project

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

No. 612970-EPP-1-2019-1-CZ-SPO-SCP

✓ Walking, hiking and mountain trails – EUMA and ERA recommendations

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union





## Walking, hiking and mountain trails EUMA and ERA recommendations

#### FINAL VERSION

Approved by Erasmus+ WG for trails on 25<sup>th</sup> of April 2022 and revised on 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2022. Modified on 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2022 by Erasmus+ WG for trails according to agreed comments from "1<sup>st</sup> Analysis Report of Erasmus+ project (WG trails)". EUMA Presidium and ERA Board approved this document with comments on 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2022. Final version approved by Erasmus+ WG for trails on 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2022.

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### 1 MISSION:

Walking, hiking, and mountain trails are supporting infrastructure for different kinds of outdoor sports (in particular walking, hiking, running, or climbing) and eco-tourism.

EUMA and ERA

- stand for freedom of access to walking, hiking and mountain trails in a responsible manner as a fundamental right,
- promote responsible walking, hiking, and mountaineering (in particular for nature protection and safety in the mountains) that balances the interests of the walkers, hikers, and mountaineers with the requirements of a prudent use,
- promote walking, hiking, and mountaineering as fundamental contribution to cohesion in Europe,
- promote sustainable development for rural areas and guarantee the provision of decent ecosystem services for the human welfare and the healthy lifestyle.

## 2 VISION:

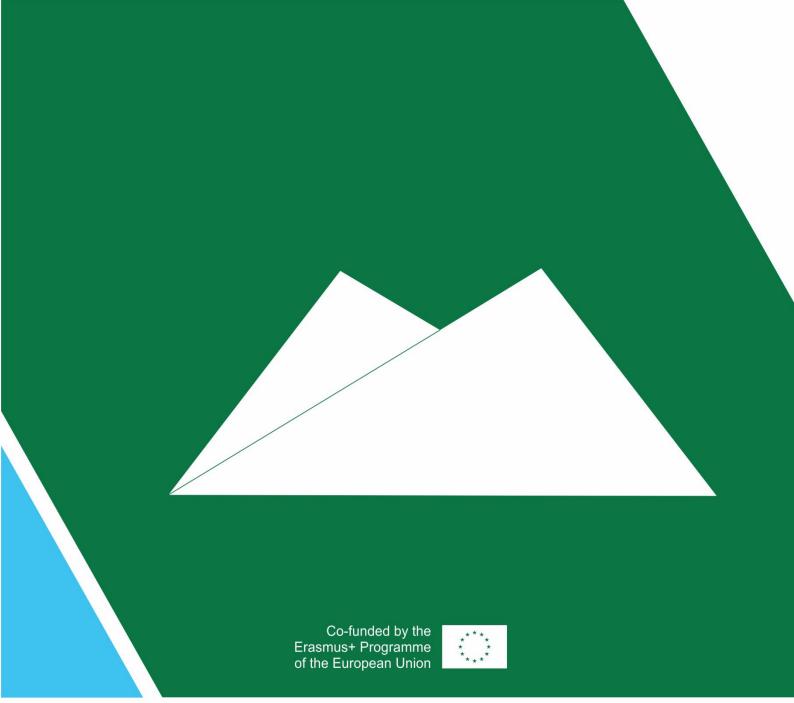
EUMA and ERA strive

- to promote walking, hiking, and mountaineering as important part of outdoor sports and eco-tourism,
- to achieve freedom of access to walking, hiking and mountain trails in a responsible manner in all Europe,
- to include walking, hiking, and mountaineering in European Union priorities as an important factor of a good quality of life,
- to raise awareness of the EU that walking, hiking and mountain trails are important supporting infrastructure for different kinds of outdoor sports and eco-tourism,
- to raise awareness of the importance of a wide network of walking, hiking and mountain trails across Europe, proper maintenance, and appropriate promotion for use of this infrastructure in a responsible manner.

### 3 EUMA and ERA recommendations for walking, hiking and mountain trails:

- 1. Trails are of public interest for the purpose of walking, hiking, running, or climbing.
- 2. Users should have free access in a responsible manner (only restrictions regarding nature protection or for safety reasons could apply).
- 3. Trails should be visible and clearly recognisable in the terrain and physically marked and signposted.
- 4. Trails should exclusively serve for users on foot except where use by others is explicitly allowed, in that case, users on foot have priority.
- 5. Trails (especially starting points) should be connected to the public transport system where possible.
- 6. Trails should avoid sealed roads which should not exceed 20% and put a focus on a recreational/sport value.
- 7. Other organisations should use walking, hiking and mountain trails for their purposes only with permission of the trail keeper and/or responsible institution.
- 8. National or regional governments should
  - a. define trail keepers and a responsible institution on national or regional level,
  - b. arrange co-financing of costs of the creation of new trails and costs of regular maintenance of existing trails by public funding,
  - c. define exemption of liability for the landowners and trail keepers on national/regional level when users hurt themselves by using trails,
  - d. recognise trails as an important infrastructure for outdoor sports, nature protection, and ecotourism,
  - e. promote how to increase the self-responsibility of trail users.
- 9. The responsible national institution should
  - a. align trails with the local, regional, and national legislation,
  - b. define standards or recommendations on national level,
  - c. maintain a digital trail database,
  - d. organise meetings, conferences, or trainings for trail keeping experts at least once per year,
  - e. promote how to increase the self-responsibility of trail users.
- 10. Trail keepers should

- a. inspect the condition of trails and waymarking at least once per year (if possible, in spring or early summer),
- b. maintain trails and waymarking if the need is indicated by inspection,
- c. present a report at least once per year to the responsible institutions,
- d. promote how to increase the self-responsibility of trail users.



Partner associations:

- ✓ 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