



ERASMUS+ project

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

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

Co-funded by the
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of the European Union



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

FINAL VERSION

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Index

1	MISSION:.....	3
2	VISION:.....	3
3	EUMA and ERA recommendations for walking, hiking and mountain trails:	3

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 eco-tourism,
 - 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.

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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