



ERA·EWV·FERP
European Hiking Federation
Hiking Europe

ERA EWV FERP

55th General Meeting
5th October 2024

Meeting documents

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Agenda

ERA General Meeting, the 5th October 2024, from 9.00 – 11:00 a.m.

1	Opening and welcome
2	Approval of the Minutes of the General Meeting 2023
3	ERA President annual report
4	Financial statement 2023
5	Auditor annual report 2023
6	Approval of the ERA Board's activities 2023
7	ERA membership: a) Approval of new member organisations b) Exclusions of member organisations
8	Election of the deputy auditor
9	Proposals: a) Change of the ERA logo and Bylaw No. 1 to the ERA Constitution b) Change of the ERA Constitution c) Proposal for the realisation of the mode of the General Meeting
10	Approval of membership fees for 2025
11	Plans 2025 for the ERA Strategy
12	Budget 2024 - 2025
13	ERA Foundation
14	Information about the General Meeting 2025 in Macôn, F
15	Location and dates of the General Meetings in 2026 and 2027
16	EURORANDO 2026
17	Any Other Business
18	Closing speech

2.

Minutes of the General Meeting 2023

<https://www.era-ewv-ferp.org/internal/conferences/>

3.

ERA President annual report

GENERAL IMPRESSIONS

The activities of the ERA Board between the two regular annual conferences have been diverse: one extraordinary General Meeting, several regular and extraordinary Board meetings, many activities of working groups, preparations for applying for ERASMUS+ projects, two webinars and more activities on current work. What was done between the two conferences will be presented below.

Another characteristic of this period is the lack of funds due to increased activities. As in the previous period, the Board has monitored the financial situation very carefully and tried to secure the necessary funds. The lack of available funds affected the limitation of some of the planned activities. The finance, the budget and the economy part of ERA will be presented under the financial points of the Agenda (No. 4, 5 and 12).

I. ERA GENERAL MEETINGS

A.

Our last **Conference 2023 in Itawa** passed in the way we cannot compare to all other conferences. Everyone saw the great efforts Marian Jurak put in. The problem was he was alone, without the presence and participation of PTTK as well as the local authorities. These and some other feedback comments were addressed to ERA Board.

The ERA board has decided to reactivate the Instructions for the organization of annual conferences with stricter control over their implementation. ERA will include the following requirements for the organizers: greater visibility of the ERA conference at the local level, as well as the necessity of having a team behind the organization, rather than relying on individuals.

B.

At the General Meeting in Poland, we adopted a proposal and amended the Constitution to ensure alignment with the requirements of the business entity registration body concerning tax obligations and fees.

Afterwards, ERA was informed by the tax office in Germany, Kassel, that some statements in our constitution are not in line with the rules for granting us charity status. They have suggested a change which ERA has prepared together with its German tax advisor.

The proposal of the completion of the ERA constitution referred directly to the Constitution in its legally binding (German) version as submitted to the German Register Court.

In order not to have to wait for the regular General Meeting in October of this year and the implementation of the fee policy, we managed to successfully organize a virtual **Extraordinary General Meeting** on February 14, 2024, when the necessary changes were adopted.

This extraordinary General Meeting was convened due to the written request for an Extraordinary General Meeting of ¼ of the ERA full members regarding a new approval of the ERA constitution. The amendment and supplement to the constitution can only be approved by the full membership. It is accepted if 2/3 of the full membership present agree. The changes were approved unanimously by 29 present votes.

II. MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

At the end of the regular General Meeting in Poland, the numerical situation in ERA was: ERA has 64 MOs from 33 European countries, of this 57 are full members and 7 are associate members.

During the year, interest in admission to ERA was shown by several organizations - one each from Ireland, Italy, Romania, Albania and Belgium. In the end, we have received applications from Romania and Albania. In this regard, the Board noted the problem that according to our Constitution, the Assembly approves the admission of new members, and that this is possible only once a year, which is sometimes very impractical. For example, if an application is made at the beginning of the year, for example in the first quarter, we answer that they should wait until the annual assembly, i.e. until September or October, and then it no longer makes sense to pay the membership fee for the current year, i.e. for the next 2-3 months. Double damage, the Organization does not benefit from the ERA for a year, and the ERA loses one membership fee. That is why we proposed a new way of considering membership, which will be discussed under the point 9 „Proposals – Change of the ERA Constitution“.

Unfortunately, two organizations have decided to leave us from 2024. There is also a problem with the Nizhny Novgorod Mountain Club, more under the point 7.

III. ERA BOARD

The sudden resignation of the previous treasurer (Joep Naber) halfway through the period, forced last year's General Meeting to organize extraordinary elections to supplement and reorganize the functions within the Board.

The ERA Board (EB) has held five meetings since the last General Meeting, four of which were virtual. The new composition of the Board introduced new requirements on how the Board operates. During the first and only in-person meeting, it became evident that some members were unable to work for two full days from 9 am to 6 pm and were not prepared to participate in all the agenda items. On the other hand, the ERA's financial situation, which necessitates cost savings, has led to the preference for virtual meetings limited to 1 to 2 hours. However, the time constraints of these virtual meetings have made it difficult to cover all necessary activities, so this approach will need to be re-evaluated by the Board. In order to continue in more frequent direct contacts with our organizations and individual members, we have continued virtual half yearly meetings, called webinars.

On 22 November 2023, the ERA **autumn webinar** was held with the main topic: "**ERA Green Trails**". 43 of the 61 registered participants were present (the most so far for regular webinars). The European Union's Green Deal, approved in 2020 and ERA aims to bolster sustainable outdoor tourism, ERA plans to establish guidelines and certification programs covering trail design, erosion control, and waste management and through it to contribute to Europe's sustainable tourism policies. The project Green Trails Certification was presented to the public, it was accepted as a good idea which should be developed. The WG was created to work on the pre-project 2024.

The ERA **spring webinar** was held on 17 April 2024 with the topic: "**Enlargement of individual members in MOs**". In order to have a true picture of the movement of the number of individual members, we organized a survey among our members, in order to see the global numerical movement of the membership. Out of 57 full members who have individual membership, we received 38 responses. During the webinar the results and the analysis of the answers about the increase and decrease of membership in MO were presented. The examples of the actions of our MOs to improve the situation of the national organization of France, Denmark, GB Ramblers and SGV (Saurlaendischer Gebirgsverein) from Germany were presented, after which there was a discussion. There were 15 participants in total. The webinar participants were very satisfied and rated the topic as most attractive and useful.

ERA continues to update its **ERA events calendar**, when the Board introduced two new international days two years ago. ERA aims to highlight issues that are of interest and importance to Europe. The ERA Board encourages member organizations and other partners to observe these days in a way that aligns with their own priorities.

The European Week of Sport is regularly held annually from 23 to 30 September. The ERA Board has agreed that the first Saturday during this period will be marked as **the European Walking Day (EWD)**. To help develop the EWD and promote it every year, the Board introduced slogans for this and coming years:

- 2024 (Sat. 28 Sept.) – EWD - We listen to nature
- 2025 (Sat. 27 Sept.) – EWD - We respect water
- 2026 (Sat. 26 Sept.) – EWD - Return to nature

If you organize such an action, it does not mean that you should cancel the Walking Day in your country, but if we all together go out walking that weekend and promote this Day, we will turn it into an European event.

The Council of Europe has been celebrating **the European Landscape Day** on October 20 for 7 years. The European Landscape Day in 2024 will very probably not be held (for organizational reasons). It will be renewed in 2025.

Let's dedicate our actions on these dates and thus raise the awareness of European citizens about this activity. What can we do?

- ❖ Raise awareness of walking, hiking and the landscape by organizing safe activities, including virtual presentations and events, photo and art competitions and hikes.
- ❖ Promote the event you are planning by official registration, publicity and organization of a press conference.
- ❖ Join the conversation on social media using the hashtag **#European Walking Day** and **#European Landscape Day**.

IV. WORKING GROUPS

The main tasks of the ERA activities are done through the WGs. We have numerous tasks which lead step-by-step to the creation of working groups. Some of their activities require physical meetings (work on site, training promotions...) which has led to an increase in funding requirements.

➤ E-PATHS WG

Gathering exact data of all E-paths (called **Verified E-paths**) is in progress. Up to now, we have collected nearly 75% of the total length of 75,128 km. These Verified E-paths are consistently a popular destination on the ERA website.

New action, connected with the verified E-paths is adapted to a new view. When you think of the renowned E-paths in Europe, images of epic long-distance hikes might come to mind. But E-paths aren't just for the rugged long-distance trekkers; they hold a world of opportunities for those seeking shorter adventures too. This is presented on the ERA website and we expect our MOs to highlight such segments in your country through ERA.

ERA continued to focus and promote one E-path every calendar year. This long-term activity started in 2023 when the E9, the longest coastal route in the world, was the center of interest, and the central event was in France in Soulac-sur-Mere, the department of Gironde, region of Nouvelle-Aquitaine significantly assisted by FFRandonnée. This year 2024 is dedicated to the E3 path and once again FFRandonnée helped with the central activity consisting of the Schengen to Paris walk, in honor of the 33rd Summer Olympic Games. Next year, 2025, we will connect our organizations along the E6 path, and the central event will be the celebration of 50 years since the E6 has existed in Slovenia.

➤ **WG LEADING QUALITY TRAILS – BEST OF EUROPE (LQT – BE), LONG DISTANCE**

Currently, we have 22 LQT-BE Long Distance holders with a valid certificate, and 2 new holders of this certificate are expected. After the meeting of the LQT family in Portugal from November 9 to 11, 2023 (the most attended meeting so far), it was concluded that the reasons for the introduction of LQT-BE are different, and thus the expectations from the ERA are also different. Therefore, an extensive survey was conducted among the holders of this certificate, in which 20 relevant responses were received from 24 potential participants. Based on these answers, an analysis will be made and at the next meeting of the LQT Family, it will be agreed what the LQT owners should do, and what is the role of ERA to support the work in the field.

A new flyer was created (by DWS) for the complete label LQT-BE (incl. Long Distance, Region and Day Walk) to be in contact with the long-distance hikers (influencers) to promote our LQT-BE.

➤ **WG LEADING QUALITY TRAILS – BEST OF EUROPE (LQT – BE), DAY WALK**

This working group consists of 5 members who were trained as experts in the process of Day Walks programme and are constantly supported by Liane Jordan (Deutscher Wanderverband Service - DWS). 3 training courses for stakeholders and trails scouts were held in 2023, and 3 more in 2024. Two each in Denmark, Belgium, and 1 each in Portugal and Greece. Another one is expected by the end of this year. So far, 10 trails have been prepared for inspection in Belgium in NP Hoge Kempen, where an LQT-BE Long Distance already exists. It is expected that two more trails can be ready in Denmark by the end of the year. The Working group opened the program to the large audience through the ZOOM webinar in June 2023. A complete programme of the LQT-BE Day Walk was introduced here in the light version to give idea to potential stakeholders and trail scouts (trained people by the LQT-BE Day Walk programme to create and evaluate the trail for the certification). The working group repeated the webinars in the frequency once every two months since February 2024 (there were actually 3 of them + one "private" for the Czech interested group).

The working group has decided to keep in touch with the trail scouts and give them a constant support. I.e. every second month starting since March 2024 (3 online meetings with the trail scouts were held to hear their ideas, wishes, comments and questions). Liane Jordan is an important part of these meetings and our big thanks belongs to her for an effort and cooperation.

Note that the Day Walk is completely provided by ERA (except the German territory).

➤ **WG LEADING QUALITY TRAILS – BEST OF EUROPE (LQT – BE), REGION**

Since 2022, the region Eislek stays as our successfully finished pilot project. After 2023, there was some new interest, but no realisations yet.

Once more, regarding these LQT-BE certification processes, I want to emphasize the merits of the impeccable work successfully managed by Liane Jordan from DWS to whom we owe a huge thank you for a smooth collaboration, as well as to DWS itself.

➤ **WG WALK LEADER**

The new Teaching Framework for the Walk Leader (WL) Programme has been completed and approved by the ERA Board. The documentation is now available on the ERA website. The WL framework is accepted in 8 countries, from 33 ERA member countries. But because of the delay in forming the new Framework, in one country (Serbia) the old licence expired in 2022 and in 4 countries in 2023. The Working Group needs to re-establish contact with member organizations who hold a license and conduct research to identify new member organizations interested in aligning their training courses with the ERA framework, as well as to foster new participations in the program.

➤ **WG PROJECTS**

After participating in the project for ERASMUS+ together with EUMA (2020 - 2022), we dedicated the entire year 2023 for preparations for participation in 2024. As part of the work of the Board, we were introduced to the possibilities of applying for various projects and fundings, but we mostly concentrated on E+ and modalities which ERA can apply for. We organized a survey and a webinar with the membership on that topic (in 2023), and at the beginning of the year 2024 we had 9 potential projects in front of us. In the end, ERA got involved in the following projects:

- **"PATH"**, - Engaging young people in trekking and associated activities through co-design - leader Italians Trekkify - Co-treck. ERA is an associated partner, no money in it for us. The project is successfully accepted.
- **"E-Paths: connecting Europe"** - the project includes 3 levels of work (European, national and regional). The European level works with the E-path extended to North Macedonia. ERA is the partner and the leader of the project is a mountaineering club "Tara" from the Mountaineering Association of Serbia. The project was not accepted.
- **"REFOOT"** - (lead by Liberation Routes - LRE) follows the same itinerary, where Canadian soldiers set foot to liberate Europe during WWII. ERA is an associated partner (our duty is to spread results). There is no income to our budget, but we gain credit points (visibility) for the action with the Cultural Routes and participatory status under CoE. There is no information about the acceptance of the project yet.
- **"ROUTES"** - 7 partners, led by FFRandonnée, project for 3 years. ERA is a partner. The project should evaluate the Rating system of trails in Europe, which was collected among ERA MOs. The project would allow us to work on the development of Green Trails and make guidelines. The project was not accepted.
- **"CONNECT"**, ENOS is the leader of the project and ERA is the partner. ERA's role is to cooperate and avoid conflicts with other users on the paths in nature. Green trails can be developed (guiding system) and used as a brand for sustainability. The project was successfully accepted.

➤ **WG GREEN TRAILS**

At the ERA autumn webinar 2023 the project Green Trails Certification was presented to the public, it was accepted as a good idea which should be developed. The WG was created to work on the pre-project in 2024. The Pre-Project was accomplished by the end of June 2024. It was developed in the following way - month 1st (February 2024): *Research and Strategy* (Stakeholder Analysis, Regulatory Analysis, Competitor Analysis, Expert Consultation). In March focus was in *Team Formation and Initial Funding* (Legal Setup, Team Formation, Grant Applications, Partnership Outreach). April 2024 was dedicated to *Initial Platform Planning and Awareness Campaign Kick-off* (Platform Blueprint, Initial Funding Campaign, Awareness Campaign Kick-off, Community Engagement). At the end of 4th month (May) we were focused on *Evaluation and Adjustment* (Assessment of Progress, Feedback Collection, Adjustment of Milestone). The initial awareness campaign laid the groundwork for community engagement and support. Adjustments made at this stage ensured a smoother transition into the detailed one-year plan.

As part of ERA's ongoing commitment to promoting sustainable practices and enhancing public health through hiking, the second half of 2024 will focus on testing and refining the Green Trails criteria and preparing for the broader "Hike Green Europe" initiative. This phase will involve practical implementation, stakeholder engagement, data collection, and the development of a comprehensive framework to integrate into an Erasmus+ project from 2025. Next steps will be **Testing Green Trails Criteria, Stakeholder Engagement, Data Collection and Analysis, Develop "Hike Green Europe" Framework, Erasmus+ Project Preparation**. The initiative aims to foster a sustainable and healthy future for Europe through the promotion of hiking and nature engagement.

Due to some other organisations interest and work, we need to act fast, otherwise we will be out of business!

➤ **AQUA WALKING STEERING COMMITTEE (AWSC)**

AWSC manages decisions concerning the development of Aqua Walking as well as the organization of the International Aqua Walking Games started by IAW following a partnership agreement between IAW and FERP which was signed in February 2024 and defines mutual obligations and rights. This competition IAWG develops and improves annually and brings together more delegations each year. Four delegations in 2022 in Rosas (Catalonia); 6 delegations in 2023 in Mandelieu (France); we expect 8 delegations in 2024 for the 3rd edition of these Games. Sophie Chipon (AWSC Manager) needs ERA's help to introduce AW activity in each country where there is a desire and possibilities to be involved.

➤ **WG COMPETITION ACTIVITIES**

Beside some actions, there were no results. After the departure of Domenico Pandolfo from the Board, Sophie Chipon took over the leadership of this working group. She received a survey that was once conducted among the membership regarding this topic.

Possible members of the WG can be from FEEC (Catalonia, Spain). Idea for new competition under ERA: Snowshoeing (beside AW games). Any suggestions regarding this topic are welcome!

➤ **WG PROMOTION AND COMMUNICATIONS**

ERA produces two different **Newsletters** – one intended for ERA MOs, partners, sponsors and individuals and the other for LQT-BE Day Walks. At the moment ERA has 1,297 subscriber, this is really small if we account on 2,5 millions individual members in all ERA MOs.

Instagram – we have to be more active. Starting in 2019 with 108, in 2024 we reached 439 followers.

FB page in August 2024 monthly reached 5,647 followers (2.019 in September 2022)

FB group instead of 848 followers in September 2022, in August 2024 we have 1,365. In both FBs we see some improvements, but not in the quantity we would like. We must all intensify this type of communication that ERA's MOs spread our channels to get large audiences.

LinkedIn (hits professionals, EU is focused on it) – started recently and has 102 followers.

Observing **Website** intense of visiting it is growing. In January 2024 there were 8,411 sessions per month, In May it was 14,432 and in August 16,734. The most interest is for LQT-BE and E-paths (ERA recommends is still invisible).

All in all, the statistics (prepared by Steen Kobberø-Hansen) show increasing numbers of followers and subscribers.

➤ **WG SPONSORING**

The document "Increase of ERA Income" has been updated. Information for sponsors and partners can be found at the bottom of the ERA homepage, and the texts provided can be used by the ERA Board for communication with potential sponsors. While the content is still open to further improvement, some Board members feel that seeking funding sources is not within their responsibilities. However, the proposal suggests that travel should be pre-financed to facilitate direct contact with potential sponsors, rather than relying solely on written communication.

➤ **WG REGISTRATION AND PROTECTION OF ID**

Rúben Jordão is in charge of protecting the new logo. The Board stopped Rúben's activities referring to the SLIDO WG proposal and discussed a logo and a new name with slogan of ERA. The new logo including the improved name "European Hiking Federation" will be discussed at the ERA GM in October 2024. After accepting the final version of logo, name and slogan, Rúben Jordão can continue in the procedure. The registration process takes about 6 months.

➤ **WG ARCHIVE**

The Board appointed Rolf Ebert to investigate the ERA *founding documentation*, which is missing in the archive.

➤ **WG CULTURAL ROUTES (CR)**

ERA has the participatory status in the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. ERA will have to look for new people working for this WG, willing to find contacts along the CR. Organizers of CR must establish contact with our MOs in the field of these routes and start to cooperate on waymarking. The CR are interested in LQT-BE Day Walks.

Cistercian routes will make a new application for registration as a CR. For ERA, it is the first direct cooperation with the (future) CR where we are involved from the beginning.

In front of ERA, Gerhard Ermischer will participate in the 13th Annual Advisory Forum of Cultural Routes of the CoE, which will be held from 25-27 September 2024.

➤ WG SLIDO

Last year, within the Know-How sessions in Itawa, a workshop was held with the delegates present on the topic: "**Enhancing Member Engagement & Communications**". As the tool with which the discussion and research was conducted is called SLIDO, we named this working group SLIDO, for easier oral communication. New WG was created during the workshop. The Board heard MOs and discussed about the three most important topics coming out of the SLIDO voting.

1. **Increase the relevance of conference and knowledge sessions**: No big changes are possible, but small adaptations yes. Friday morning: K-H focus on interesting topics. The ERA office distributed the survey what are the wishes for the K-H sessions, and the results are planned for this year. Saturday morning: The GM will be shortened to 2 hours (shorter reports), + 2 hours for networking/presentations.
2. **Change the name ERA-EWV-FERP: "ERA – Hiking Europe"** which is already used now on the ERA website and will develop into the new name and logo (keep abbreviations + add new name: European Hiking Federation). With an approval by the GM, the ERA constitution must be changed. The changes are necessary in the ENG version, as the „Ramblers“ causes a problem in the communication with the outside world – it is not recognised by EU institutions or people using English. The majority of our MOs are in favor to change the ENG name. The German and French versions stay as they are. This implies a change to the present ERA constitution. We will do the change (at the GM 2024) before we go for the trade mark registration. The abbreviation of ERA-EWV-FERP stays as it is, as a connection between the „old“ and „new“ English name.
3. **Improve the presence of ERA in EU institution to become more an ambassador**: Can be improved via Gerhard. After the EU election, Gerhard will ask a new badge for entry into the EU Parliament. Gerhard will prepare a document to our MOs – we are looking for nature/hiking enthusiast deputies to introduce our goals/aims to other interested deputies in the EU Parliament.

V. PARTNERSHIPS

- ❖ **Kompass AG** - Kompass wants to continue with our cooperation. The contract details will be defined after the ERA General Meeting 2024.
- ❖ **Traildino** - Nothing new.
- ❖ **Deutscher Wanderverband Service** - Partnership is going smoothly, with mutual respect.
- ❖ **EUFED** - Nothing new. With the withdrawal of Gerhard Koller from the leadership of EUFED, all contact has died down.
- ❖ **EUMA** – the cooperation is very good. Mutual attendance at GM is respected. The joint cooperation is also reflected in occasional meetings of the both boards, organised regularly, several times a year. After learning that ERA will organize the 3rd Conference on trails, EUMA wanted jointly organize, and you will read about that in a separate section of this Report. We are agreeing on responses to ENOS, which initiated the Declaration on Trails. Common positions were also taken on the occasion of the establishment of the European Hub by the World Trails Network. Possibilities of joint participation in projects were also discussed. Rúben Jordão was appointed as an expert in the EUMA working group "Trails", led by Bojan Rotovnik.
It is important to emphasize that only ERA and EUMA are responsible for creating trails—whether for hiking, mountaineering, or alpinism—while all other organizations serve merely as custodians. Therefore, we must always strive to speak with one voice on all matters related to this field of work.

- ❖ **European Week of Sport (EWoS)** - Rúben Jordão attended the EU Sport Forum, held on 16-17 April 2024 in Liège (B). We expect to be informed from our member organisations what they plan for the EWoS in 2024.
- ❖ **International Aqua Walking (IAW)** - The contract ERA-IAW was signed in Mandelieu, during ERA Board meeting. The contract is for 3 years, but the review can be done after two years (February 2026).
- ❖ **International Volkssportverband (IVV)** - Nothing new after receiving the signed contract.
- ❖ **Outdooractive** (an offer for ERA) - ERA Board sees the partnership only as cooperation through the "Cash back deal" and a possible sponsorship.

VI. ERA IS A MEMBER OF ...

ERA is a member of the following organizations:

- ❖ **European Network of Outdoor Sports (ENOS)** - ENOS prepared the "European Declaration for Trails" and invited ERA to participate in its finalization. To gather input, ERA first conducted a survey among our member organizations (MOs) who were involved in this Declaration. The responses from the MOs were to be submitted to ERA before they answered the questionnaire for ENOS. Simultaneously, ERA was expected to report on what had already been accomplished in collaboration with EUMA within the project.
ERA and EUMA have had several meetings regarding the Declaration. As European experts in this field, both organizations have provided feedback on the Declaration. If ENOS insists on moving forward with the project, it is essential that ERA and EUMA experts are invited to join as partners. ENOS intends to present the final Declaration for Trails at the Euro'Meet in Lecco (IT) on 10-12 September 2024. Negotiations continue.
- ❖ **Tourist Manifesto for Growth & Jobs** – Their programme is not in the scope of our part of interest. ERA will stay (passively) inside this organization for further contacts.
- ❖ **World Trails Network (WTN)** – WTN intends to improve Green Flag Trails (GFT) with the quality criteria. The majority of the LQT criteria were copied into the GTF program. ERA informed DWS about it.

VII. COUNCIL OF EUROPE (CoE)

The General meeting of INGO (International non-governmental organization) was held from 8-10 April 2024 in Strasbourg. Angelo Latorre attended it.

From the beginning of 2024, a new committee "SPORT AND HUMAN RIGHTS" started by European Social Action Network (ESAN). An ERA's representative is Patricia Aillot-Guichard from France. ERA Board invited Patricia to the ERA conference 2024 as a Board adviser to learn more about ERA's activities.

The Landscape Convention Committee should be renewed this year. Access to the landscape is a big issue. We need to look for interested people to represent ERA on this committee.

VIII. ERA STRATEGY FOR 2024

The priorities for this year are to seek funding, grants, sponsorships, donations, partnerships, and projects, find manpower internally and externally, increase membership involvement, LQT-BE, Day Walk, ERA Recommends.

Other actions consist of:

- **Focus on common interests for walking in Europe**, as use our guidelines for training walk leader, common waymarking, system for quality trails and difficulties, make walking a key focus in traffic concepts, ...)
- **Focus on exchange of ideas and experiences between the member organizations in ERA**, where ERA can be an active and fruitful forum, as well as assisting in organizing regional meetings (at least two regular virtual meetings - webinars, researching possibilities for specific walking activities for the young walkers)
- **Focus on being an active NGO in the European context**, to the benefit of both ERA and its member organization and for walking in Europe (Participation in CoE and EU-institutions has high priority).
- **Focus on cross border activities between member organizations** (bilateral meetings on topics of interest to neighboring MOs should be encouraged as well as common walk – hikes on E3.)
- **Quality** - LQT-BE, Day Walk and Region, continue building up "ERA Recommends", promote and communicate the quality label towards tourism and European bodies. The proposed criteria of the "ERA Recommends - accommodation host" can be tested in different European countries to see if the criteria are transferable. Furthermore "ERA Recommends Events" can be tested more.)
- **European walking events** - conduct the European Walking Day, attend the European Landscape Day, conduct walks and hikes on E3 in the countries, which E3 passes through, conduct the 3rd International Aqua Walking Games.
- **Projects and programs** - to build a network of possible partners – within the ERA MOs, and outside the ERA like EUMA or ENOS, start the project Green Trails, also look into the items "Access to the landscape" and "Protection of waymarking" as well.
- **Work through the working groups.**

From these reports you can see what was done and fully realized where we need to make more effort.

IX. EURORANDO 2026

For the fans of this event, we continue to care about the next EURORAND 2026. The EURORANDO 2026 will be held in Erzgebirge mountains in Germany, in the border region with the Czech Republic. The organisers are Tourismusverband Erzgebirge, Klub českých turistů and Destinační agentura "Krušnohoří". The organisers have applied for a project, which should fund the event. The latest information we will hear at the conference in Monserrat.

X. ERA IS ASKED TO JOIN...

ERA was asked to join the dozens of other organizations across Europe demanding that the Council of Europe's Member States take effective steps to protect the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

- ❖ **CIEL** - The request came from Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) in connection with CoE. The Board approved the signature of this Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights.
- ❖ **EUROPEAN TRAILS HUB** - Hartmut Wimmer (Outdooractive) approached ERA and met the ERA Board personally in Feb. 2023 to present his idea of the European Trails umbrella organisation. He proposed that ERA would be its member with EUMA, IMBA, EUROPARC and eventually some other key players on an European level.
The EUMA Board with their MOs considered the idea about European Trails on their GA. They are unanimously against the founding of European Trails organization. The similar oral information

came from EUROPARC and IMBA. The ERA board is also against such an organisation. There is the risk of losing independence and to be part of an umbrella organisation with business aims. But the idea of cooperating and be part of an informal network among the European umbrella organisations dealing with trails in Europe could be taken into consideration. We can approach IMBA and EUROPARC (and EUMA as ongoing partner) by offering cooperation as partners to connect people loving the outdoor activity, using the trails and communicating common problems. ERA can organise the first meeting.

- ❖ **Federation for European Education (FEDE)** - ERA was invited to participate in the webinar Interculturality from the Standpoint of Ambassadors on 21 May 2024 by the FEDE, organized in frame of the FEDE's 61st anniversary and marking the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. Sophie Chipon participated.

XI. 3rd EUROPEAN TRAILS AND PATHS CONFERENCE

The initial idea to organize a seminar for everyone who cares about E-paths in Europe turned into the third ERA path conference. After the presentation of this idea to EUMA, it was agreed that this conference has a serial number, but that the organizers are ERA and EUMA together, under the name **3rd European Trails and Paths Conference**, with the theme of **TRAILS SUSTAINABILITY** and with the great help and support of the Fédération Française de la Randonnée Pédestre. The venue will be held from 7-10 November 2024 in Paris (F). We expect to hear more than 15 articles that will cover trails sustainability and maintenance, as well as climate resilience and trail infrastructure. We look forward to interesting discussions and conclusions.

CONCLUSIONS

As you can see, despite limited funds and human resources, we have expanded even more and developed new lines of activity, and we are trying to improve cooperation with our members through various aspects. We try to follow and listen to what our members want and how they want to work. We also listened to our LQT Family and we will work with them in the future according to their wishes, but also according to our financial and manpower possibilities.

As ERA president, I have to thank all our Board members and all members of the working groups who have given their free time and worked hard voluntarily for the whole ERA organization. We would not be able to achieve these results if we did not have Jana Harnochová in our office in Prague, to whom we owe a special thank you for all her work in regular and extra time, working on several levels for the Board, working groups, projects, MOs and ERA in the whole. The problems that we need to solve remain from the past, namely the workforce and finances. We still need additional manpower volunteers and professionals in all fields of work, in the office and in ERA bodies.

Our intention is to increase revenues is through:

- Projects
- Sponsorships
- Marketing
- Quality labels

That means that each member of the new ERA Board must actively concentrate on finding financial sources. We also need volunteers for all four activities (at least for the beginning period). We must look for

them among our individual members! You are welcome to approach the Board for cooperation or to offer some kind of help.

The list of the Board members for the period 2023 - 2025:

Boris Mičić – president
Gerhard Ermischer – 1st vice-president
Sophie Chipon – 2nd vice-president
Angelo Latorre – 3rd vice-president
Steen Kobberø-Hansen – treasurer
Asnāte Ziemele – assessor
Rúben Jordão - assessor

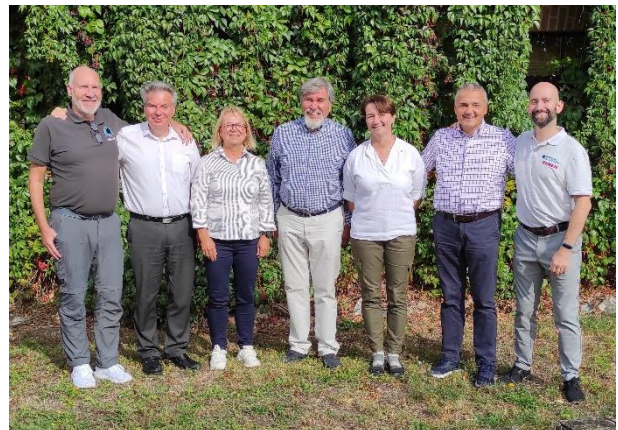
Boris Mičić
ERA president
Belgrade, 20 August 2024

Board members (from left):

Steen Kobberø-Hansen, Gerhard Ermischer, Sophie Chipon, Boris Mičić, Asnāte Ziemele, Angelo Latorre, Rúben Jordão

ERA office:

Europäische Wandervereinigung e.V. (EWV)
Prusíkova 2577
CZ - 155 00 Praha 5



4.

Financial Statement 2023

Receipts (€)	2022	Budget 2023	2023
Membership fee	36 995	38 340	38 820
ERA Foundation	0	2 420	2 220
Fahrbach Foundation	0	620	623
Income Partnership	5 000	10 000	5 300
Special donation from DWV, FIE, FECC	4 092	3 000	4 500
<i>Marketing and projects:</i>			
LQT-BE, Long distance	2 550	1 760	2 310
LQT-BE, Day Walks	-	12 000	4 100
Walk Leader	900	800	1 125
Aqua Walking	300	300	300
ERASMUS+ project	8 035	12 052	17 227
Sale of materials	20	0,00	0
Total	57 892	81 292	76 525
Payments (€)	2022	Budget 2023	2023
Board	4 642	9 600	11 337
Travelling president	2 968	4 000	591
General Meeting	8 797	6 000	7 710
<i>Working groups</i>			
E-paths	2 597	2 100	2 932
LQT-BE Day Walks	1 921	5 180	5 480
LQT-BE Regions	300	500	0
Competition Activities	0		0
ERA Sponsoring	0		0
ERA Archive	164	300,00	567
<i>Administration:</i>			
Staff cost	25 775	30 000	30 387
Travelling expences staff	614	1 900	1 211
Post, phone, homepage, internet	1 401	1 400	1 110
Rent	6 269	8 400	8 314
Translation cost	938	1 000	659
Other cost	726	500	500
Insurance	927	950	942
<i>Marketing and projects:</i>			
Marketing	2 274	2 000	1 764
LQT-BE Long distance	1 138	0	1 443
LQT-BE Day Walks	0	15 250	10 596
Walk Leader	0	0,00	0
Projects (ERASMUS+ EUMA)	18 812	-	-
E-path celebration	4 639	-	-
Purchase of materials	404	-	0

Exchange costs/Charge/Commision	-222	600	457
VAT	-	2 000	1 900
Total	85 082	91 680	87 900
Status:	-27 190	-10 388	-11 375
Total Funds Brought Forward	70 892	43 702	43 702
Net receipts (deficit) for the year	-27 190	-10 388	-11 375
Total Funds Carried Forward	43 702	33 314	32 327

Development of the financial year 2023

Position at 1. 1. 2023	43 702
Creditor/debtor 2022	-843
Position at 1.1.2023 in bank	42 859
Receipts 2023	76 525
	119 384
Payments 2023	-87 900
	31 484
Creditor/debtor 2023	971
As at 31. 12. 2023	32 455

Cash & cash at bank at 31. 12. 2023

Cash - Office	386
Cash - President	0
FIO banka, CZ	305
Sparkonto Commerzbank Kassel, D	6 795
Commerzbank Kassel, D	24 969
As at 31. 12. 2023	32 455

ERASMUS⁺ Project „EUMA – Improvement of good governance of climbing and mountaineering in Europe“ – final overview 2023

Total overview:	Year 2020	Year 2021	Year 2022	Year 2023	Total	Total for all years
Direct costs	6 124	9 218	18 812	-	34 154	53 859
In-direct costs	4 457	7 363	7 885	-	19 705	
Direct incomes	7 588	12 500	8 035	17 227	45 350	48 626
In-direct incomes	1 092	1 092	1 092	-	3 276	
Total	-1 901	-2 989	-17 570	17 227	x	-5 233

Treasurer annual report for year ending 31st December 2023

Receipts

We are pleased to report that ERA membership fees were received as budgeted from our member organizations. Special thanks to Deutscher Wanderverband, Federazione Italiana Escursionismo, and Federació d'Entitats Excursionistes de Catalunya for their generous donations, which supported the administrative operations of ERA above their regular membership fees.

However, the financial crisis across Europe has continued to impact our potential partnerships with significant European stakeholders. Consequently, we received only half of the expected income.

Nevertheless, the increased fourth instalment from the ERASMUS+ Project with our partner EUMA helped balance this deficit. The higher instalment was awarded due to the exceptional work of the Working Group Trails, where ERA representatives made significant contributions.

Other programmes, such as LQT-BE Long Distance and Aqua Walking, have been steady supporters of our budget. The LQT-BE Day Walk programme, which started later in the year, only conducted three training courses and no inspections, reflecting in our financial statement for 2023.

Payments

Administration constitutes the largest portion of the budget. However, the final statement shows that actual expenditures did not exceed the planned budget, thanks to savings in postal services, office energy, and reduced travel fees connected with administration.

While travel fees for the ERA Board and Working Groups were limited to the necessary minimum, three physical ERA Board meetings were essential due to heavy negotiations for new projects and programmes. Among the highest expenditures was the LQT-BE Day Walk programme. The final transfer for the know-how from DWS to ERA and the preparation phase were necessary. ERA paid the first and largest of four planned instalments for this know-how transfer. The VAT is shown separately as ERA can request a return of VAT from the Financial Authorities.

Conclusion

The ERA Board has agreed to lower our funds as an investment in ERA's future. In 2023, ERA initiated new programmes to improve future income and reduce dependency on membership fees by seeking balanced financial sources through fees, projects, and ERA programmes.

By the end of 2023, our financial status stood at € -11,375.

Special thanks to Dr. Michael Ermrich, the ERA auditor, for controlling and approving our finances for 2023.

Financial Summary

Total Receipts:

- Membership Fees: As budgeted
- Special Donations: Deutscher Wanderverband, Federazione Italiana Escursionismo, Federació d'Entitats Excursionistes de Catalunya
- ERASMUS+ Project Instalment: Increased due to exceptional work by WG Trails
- Other Programmes: LQT-BE Long Distance, Aqua Walking, LQT-BE Day Walks (limited activities)

Total Payments:

- Administration: Savings achieved
- Travel Fees: Limited but necessary meetings conducted
- LQT-BE Day Walk Programme: Largest instalment paid for know-how transfer
- VAT: Shown separately

Steen Kobberø-Hansen, ERA Treasurer

1 July 2024

5.

Auditor annual report for the year ending 31 December 2023

The audit of the accounts of European Ramblers' Association (ERA) was carried out this year on the basis of the documents submitted to me physically on 23 August 2024 in Dresden. Questions were answered by Mrs. Jana Harnochová, a member of staff.

I have checked the submitted documents, they were prepared correctly and were transparent. The accounting procedures were clearly visible and were in exemplary order. The following items were extracted from the 2023 financial report:

- **Total income** for the reporting year amounted to 76,525.00 euros (2022: 57,892 euros, 2021: 56,132.00 euros).
- **Total expenditures** for the reporting year amounted to 87,899.81 euros (2022: 85,081.98 euros, 2021: 56,695.65 euros).

Income and expenses have led to a **negative annual result** of -11,374.81 euros (2022: -27,189.98 euros, 2021: -563.65 euros). This reduces the carried-forward bookkeeping total from 43,702.72 euros as of 31 December 2023 to 31,484.38 euros. The financial situation of ERA remains stable. The negative result in 2023 is slightly worse than the planned deficit (-10,388.00 euros). Lower income was mainly due to the ERASMUS project (5.2 TE) and missing special allocations from member organizations (1.5 TE). Significant reductions in income were due to the lack of income from sponsors and partners (4.7 TE).

The largest deviations on the expense side are due to the lower expenses for the president's travel costs of 3.4 TE and the additional expenses for two in-person board meetings. The Day Walks project has not yet started as planned. The lower income was offset by lower expenses.

The costs of the office were slightly under budget.

The evidence for the individual accounts and cash balances as of 31 December 2023, was available. I checked the income and expenses based on the lists provided, and a large number of samples were reviewed.

In conclusion, it can be stated that the financial situation of ERA was well-organized in the reporting year 2023. I thank the president Boris Mičić, the board, and Mrs. Harnochová for their work. Since I cannot be present at the meeting myself, I ask Aloys Steppuhn to submit the motion for the discharge of the board on my behalf.

Wernigerode, 5 September 2024

Dr. Michael Ermrich,
Auditor

7a.

Approval of new member organisations

The ERA Board proposes for the full membership: Clubul Montan Transilvania (RO)



Application Letter

Dear members of the ERA Board,

Clubul Montan Transilvania (EN: Transylvania Mountain Club) referred further on as CMT or the club, is a non-profit organization of the type association, founded on the 9th of June, 2022 in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. CMT's main purpose is to promote sustainable tourism through activities in nature and protecting the environment. Alongside this main purpose, the club has defined 23 objectives to achieve its purpose. These can be found in the attached official statute.

Carrying out CMT's purpose and objectives will require a significant amount of effort and funding, which is why we have initially started organizing 1-day hikes in the Apuseni Mountains, close to Cluj-Napoca. Participants have the opportunity to donate a symbolic amount of money (50 lei - ~10-euro equivalent) to sustain the club's activities. We had to learn the hard way that without any online advertising on social media, the club is mostly invisible. This is why a small amount of the received donations is used to promote the club and its activities on social media.

I am a strong believer in collaboration within the European community. At my current workplace, I'm coordinating the attraction of European funding for research and innovation projects working together with various organizations (universities, companies, research institutions, standardization bodies, clusters) all around Europe. The same approach should be followed here. Being a member of the European Ramblers Association, the largest hiking community in Europe, will allow some visibility and traction. Through the ERA, the club will be able to promote Romania as a hiking destination possibility, perform some exchange of experience and learn from the more mature members.

As an ERA member, CMT can bring lots of information regarding hiking routes in Romania especially in the Apuseni Mountains, support any hiking/sport related activities organized by other members in Europe, provide support for accessing nature/environment-related funding for projects, promote the ERA in Romania through social media and at related events.

We believe that as an ERA member, we would be able to obtain a lot of valuable information from more experienced members regarding the organization of hiking and other sport activities, take part in exchanges of experience regarding hiking in which the club can organize hikes in Romania for the other ERA members, attend events focused on environment protection, sustainable tourism, hiking and sports in general.

Having in mind the statements above, Clubul Montan Transilvania sends the herein application letter to become a full member of the European Ramblers Association as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Andrei Rusu

President



Clubul Montan Transilvania



Federata Shqiptare e Alpinizmit dhe Turizmit Malor has been a full member of ERA since 2016. Due to the economic situation, they were unable to pay their membership fees for the following 4 years (until 2021), so a proposal was made, and the ERA General Meeting excluded them from membership in 2022. The organization has again expressed their desire to return to ERA and below is a letter in which they explain the reasons for non-payment and the application for new membership.

The ERA Board proposes for the full membership: Federata Shqiptare e Alpinizmit dhe Turizmit Malor

Normal Document



**FEDERATA SHQIPTARE E ALPINIZMIT
DHE TURIZMIT MALOR**
Albanian Mountaineering Federation
and Mountain Tourism



Tiranë, 12. 08. 2024

Federata Shqiptare e Alpinizmit dhe Turizmit Malor
St. "Liman Kaba" Parku Olimpik Tiranë

Dear ERA ,

Thank you for your consideration and possibility to make us part of ERA again.

During the last few years, we didn't have that much of a great budget to use since our only income came from the government and we had so much to do inside Albania that left us in a very bad position to not be able to pay for memberships for international associations. It is still hard but by doing a lot of projects in Albania has raised our budget from the government which now gives us the possibility to complete at least the payment for each year for the membership of ERA.

Knowing the lack of budget, we are working hard to develop things in Albania so our government could possibly raise our budget and then we will be able to do even more for our mountaineers and all the tourists that visit our mountains from all over the world.

Being part of ERA makes us believe and hope that we can make new friends and collaborate for making new projects possible for developing ways into Albanian beautiful mountains.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,
Denis Veliu.

Adresa: Rr. "Liman Kaba", ish kompleksi Dinamo, Tirane
Tel: +35542320702
e-mail: fshaltm@gmail.com

7b.

Outgoing member organisations / Exclusions of member organisations

The organisation decided to leave ERA from 2024:

Comité Régional Hauts-de-France (F)

Clube de Actividades de Ar Livre (P)

Nizhny Novgorod Mountain Club (RU)

ERA got a signal from the former board members (who are mostly living in Germany and other EU states now) that there is no more contact with the new people responsible on the board of the Russian club. It is not ERA's fault that Russia is in war with Ukraine. The organisation can postpone the payment, but not stop it (ERA General Meeting has twice forgiven the membership to the Russian club).

But they are not fulfilling principles of the ERA constitution (written in Preamble) and it is out of order with our rules and principles. The ERA Board has decided to vote at the GM for further membership of Niznij Novgorod Mountain Club. The invoice for the membership fee 2024 will be suspended until the decision of the GM.

8.

Election of the deputy auditor

§ 15

Auditor

The General Meeting shall appoint one individual auditor and one substitute for a period of four years. The auditor and the substitute are eligible for one re-appointment. They shall audit the accounts, report in writing to the General Meeting and make an application to the General Meeting for the discharge of the treasurer and the Board.

The ERA auditor Dr. Michael Ermrich is in position from 2022 – 2026.

The candidate for deputy auditor for the period 2024-2028 is Dr. Angela Sabac-el-Cher.



Deutscher Wanderverband

Der Präsident

Deutscher Wanderverband - Kleine Rosenstraße 1-3 - 34117 Kassel

Europäische Wandervereinigung e.V.
Herrn Präsident Boris Micic
Prusikova 2577
155 00 Praha 5

Czech Republic

Zeichen setzen



Deutscher Wanderverband

130 Jahre
engagiert
für Wanderwege

www.zeichen-setzen-pro-ehrenamt.de



Antrag des Verbandes Deutscher Gebirgs- und Wandervereine e.V. an die Mitgliederversammlung der Europäischen Wandervereinigung am 5. Oktober 2024 in Montserrat, Katalonien, Spanien

Der Verband Deutscher Gebirgs- und Wandervereine e.V. (kurz: Deutscher Wanderverband) schlägt für die Wahl in die Position des stellvertretenden Rechnungsprüfers

Frau Dr. Angela Sabac-el-Cher

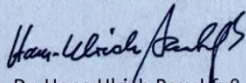
vor.

Frau Dr. Sabac-el-Cher, geb. 15.10.1965, ist seit 2023 Schatzmeisterin und Mitglied im Vorstand des Deutschen Wanderverbandes.

Der Deutsche Wanderverband freut sich über die Bereitschaft von Frau Dr. Sabac-el-Cher als stellvertretende Rechnungsprüferin in der Europäischen Wandervereinigung tätig zu sein und nominiert sie als offizielle Kandidatin für die Periode 2024 bis 2028 zur Wahl in Montserrat, Katalonien, Spanien.

Für weitere Auskünfte stehen der Unterzeichner und die Bewerberin zur Verfügung.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen



Dr. Hans-Ulrich Rauchfuß
Präsident

30. Juli 2024

Deutscher Wanderverband
Kleine Rosenstraße 1-3
34117 Kassel
Telefon 05 61 / 9 38 73 - 0
Telefax 0561 / 9 38 73 - 10
info@wanderverband.de
www.wanderverband.de

Bankverbindung:
Volksbank Odenwald eG
Konto 1 805 681 (BLZ 508 635 13)

IBAN:
DE10 5086 3513 0001 8056 81
BIC:
GENODE51MIC



Verband Deutscher Gebirgs-
und Wandervereine e.V.
kurz: Deutscher Wanderverband

9.

Proposals

a) Change of the ERA logo and Bylaw No. 1 to the ERA Constitution

Rationale for the ERA name change and rebranding strategy

Introduction

The European Ramblers Association (ERA) is embarking on a strategic rebranding initiative to enhance its visibility and effectiveness in promoting walking and hiking activities across Europe. This document outlines the reasons for the English name change and the benefits of adopting a dual branding approach. It is intended to inform member organizations at the general conference in October.

Background

The ERA has a long-standing reputation, established over 50 years, as a prominent umbrella organization for walking and hiking enthusiasts in Europe. However, the current names and its associated abbreviations (ERA-EWV-FERP) have presented challenges in communication and recognition, particularly within European institutions and among the general public.

Reasons for the name change

1. Simplification and clarity:

- The current name is lengthy and the abbreviations are complex, making it difficult to remember and communicate effectively.
- The term "association" in the context of European institutions is often misunderstood as a club rather than an international umbrella organization.¹⁾ The French term "federation" is more accurate, while the German term "Vereinigung" is rarely used and feels outdated.

¹⁾ *an association is a group of people, a federation is a group of associations (legal persons), which constitute a single entity.*

2. Enhanced recognition:

- A shorter, more memorable name will facilitate better communication and marketing efforts.
- The addition of the name "European Hiking Federation" provides clarity and aligns better with the organization's role and activities, making it more understandable and appealing to officials, members, and the public.

3. Improved understanding:

- The term "Ramblers" is often not well understood by non-native English speakers, while "hiking" is universally recognized. The new name "European Hiking Federation" ensures that the organization's purpose is clear to a broader audience.

4. Strategic positioning:

- The dual branding approach allows the ERA to maintain its historical name while also adopting a new, modern identity.
- The slogan "Hiking Europe" captures the essence of the organization's mission and activities, providing a cohesive and appealing brand message.

Benefits of the New Branding

1. Increased visibility:

- The new name and slogan will improve the ERA's visibility in communications, promotional materials, and online platforms.

- It will be easier to attract media attention and public interest with a more straightforward and engaging brand identity.

2. Improved engagement:

- Members and stakeholders will find it easier to reference and promote the organization with the new, simpler names.
- The dual branding approach will help in engaging a broader audience, including younger generations and new members.

3. Better alignment with goals:

- The new branding aligns with the ERA's objectives of promoting walking and hiking activities, protecting nature, and fostering cross-border cooperation.
- It supports the organization's advocacy efforts by presenting a strong, unified identity that is easily recognizable.

Maintaining the German and French names

It is important to emphasize that the German name, "Europäischer Wanderverband," which is the primary name according to the German constitution, will remain unchanged. Similarly, the French name "Fédération Européenne de la Randonnée Pédestre" will also remain unchanged. This rebranding initiative affects only the English usage of the name. The historical and legal integrity of the German and French names will be preserved, ensuring continuity and respect for the organization's established identity within German- and French-speaking contexts.

Conclusion

The proposed name change in English and rebranding strategy are designed to enhance the ERA's effectiveness and visibility, aligning better with its mission and activities. This initiative will provide a fresh, modern identity while preserving the organization's historical roots, ensuring continued success and growth in promoting walking and hiking across Europe.

We look forward to discussing this exciting transition at the ERA 55. Conference in October.





The bylaw No. 1 "RULEBOOK ON THE APPEARANCE AND USE OF SIGN AND FLAG OF THE EUROPEAN RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION", will be changed in the paragraph "I. Appearance of the sign and flag" after the approval of the new logo by the General Meeting in Montserrat.

b) Change of the ERA Constitution

In addition to the above explanation for changing the Constitution, the following is also proposed: In order to speed up the admission and expulsion of members in ERA, it is proposed that the Board be the first-instance authority for admission and dismissal, and the Assembly as the second-instance.

Blue = new version

Crossed-out = removed text

<p>§ 1 Name, seat and legal status 1. The name of the association, founded on 19 October 1969, is "Europäische Wandervereinigung" (EWV). - In French the name shall be: "Fédération Européenne de la Randonnée Pédestre" (FERP). - In English the name shall be: "European Ramblers' Association" (ERA). 2. It is registered - according to German law - at the Amtsgericht (District Court) Stuttgart under the number "VR 3191" in the register of associations. The seat of the association is Kassel.</p>	<p>§ 1 Name, seat and legal status 1. The name of the association, founded on 19 October 1969, is "Europäische Wandervereinigung" (EWV). - In French the name shall be: "Fédération Européenne de la Randonnée Pédestre" (FERP). - In English the name shall be: "European Hiking Federation" (ERA). 2. It is registered - according to German law - at the Amtsgericht (District Court) Kassel under the number "VR 5601" in the register of associations. The seat of the association is Kassel.</p>
<p>§ 4 Membership 7. Membership within the meaning of paragraphs 1-3 requires a written application. Before admitting a member, the member club or clubs of the same country must be heard. The General Meeting decides on the application after examination by the Board.</p>	<p>§ 4 Membership 7. Membership within the meaning of paragraphs 1-3 requires a written application. Before admitting a member, the member club or clubs of the same country must be heard. The Board decides on the application after examination. In case of any conflict, the General Meeting will decide on the application.</p>
<p>§ 5 Termination of Membership 1. Membership ends with a written resignation to the president, which can only take effect at the end of an accounting year. It must be received by the ERA office at least 40 days before the General Meeting. It ends automatically without the need for a written</p>	<p>§ 5 Termination of Membership 1. Membership ends with a written resignation to the president, which can only take effect at the end of an accounting year. It must be received by the ERA office at least 30 days before the beginning of the year from which the membership is to end. It ends automatically without the need for a written</p>

<p>resignation, if insolvency proceedings are opened over the assets of a member or the dissolution of the member as a legal entity takes place or, in the case of honorary members, with their death.</p> <p>2. Membership can be revoked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) in case of gross violation of the purposes of ERA, b) in case of arrears of membership fees for more than 2 years. <p>3. The General Meeting decides on the withdrawal.</p>	<p>resignation, if insolvency proceedings are opened over the assets of a member or the dissolution of the member as a legal entity takes place or, in the case of honorary members, with their death.</p> <p>2. ERA Board can revoke membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) in case of gross violation of the purposes of ERA, b) in case of arrears of membership fees for more than 2 years. <p>3. The ERA Board decides on the withdrawal.</p>
<p>§ 8 Competence of the General Meeting The General Meeting is the supreme body of the association. The following tasks are incumbent on the General Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the approval of the annual report of the Board b) the approval of the annual accounts of the treasurer and the approval of his report c) the approval of the auditors' report d) the approval of the Board's activities e) the election of the election committee f) the election and discharge of the Board g) the election and discharge of the auditors h) the approval of the budget i) the approval of membership fees j) the amendment and approval of the Constitution k) the approval of honorary members and honorary presidents l) the approval of members and the withdrawal of memberships m) the approval of the projects and plans of the Board for the following years n) the fixing of the place and date of the next general meeting o) a change in the purpose of the association as referred to in the preamble p) decisions pursuant to § 17 para. 1 on economic activity q) the dissolution of the association 	<p>§ 8 Competence of the General Meeting The General Meeting is the supreme body of the association. The following tasks are incumbent on the General Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the approval of the annual report of the Board b) the approval of the annual accounts of the treasurer and the approval of his report c) the approval of the auditors' report d) the approval of the Board's activities e) the election of the election committee f) the election and discharge of the Board g) the election and discharge of the auditors h) the approval of the budget i) the approval of membership fees j) the amendment and approval of the Constitution k) the approval of honorary members and honorary presidents l) the approval of members in case the ERA Board cannot decide regarding §4.7 m) the decision of the appeal of an organization dissatisfied with the decision of the ERA Board on the withdrawal of member organisation regarding §5.3, as a second instance authority n) the approval of the projects and plans of the Board for the following years o) the fixing of the place and date of the next general meeting p) a change in the purpose of the association as referred to in the preamble q) decisions pursuant to § 17 para. 1 on economic activity r) the dissolution of the association

c) Proposal for the realisation of the mode of the General Meeting



Europäische Wandervereinigung e.V.
z.H. Jana Harnochova
Prusikova 2577
155 00 Praha 5
Tschechische Republik

ÖAV-Sektion Weitwanderer
ZVR-Zahl: 617184384
z.H. Gert Kienast
Peierlheng 9/5
8042 Graz

Graz, am 24. Mai 2024

Antrag an die Hauptversammlung der Europäischen Wandervereinigung (EWV)

Sehr geehrte Wanderfreundinnen und -freunde in der EWV,
die ÖAV-Sektion Weitwanderer stellt folgenden Antrag an die EWV-Hauptversammlung in Montserrat:

Wir beantragen, dass **zukünftige Hauptversammlungen** in der Form von **Online- oder Hybrid-Meetings** stattfinden. Indem den Delegierten die Möglichkeit der Online-Teilnahme (via Zoom oder dergleichen) gegeben wird, soll die **Anzahl der teilnehmenden Mitgliedsorganisationen** am wichtigsten Gremium der EWV **erhöhen werden**.

Begründung

Die Hauptversammlung ist der „Souverän“ der EWV. Da die EWV eine europaweite Organisation ist, sind ihre Mitgliedsorganisationen (MO) über den gesamten Kontinent verstreut. Daher ist es sehr aufwändig und teuer, die persönliche Teilnahme aller (bzw. von einer ausreichenden Zahl an) MO bei dieser wichtigen jährlichen Veranstaltung sicherzustellen.

1. Die meisten dieser MO sind gemeinnützige, aus Freiwilligen bestehende Organisationen („Wandervereine“), von denen einige weder das Budget noch die Zeit aufbringen können, zu einer mehrtägigen Veranstaltung im entfernten Ausland reisen. Speziell jene MO, die sich ausschließlich aus Mitgliedsgebühren finanzieren, können es nur schwer rechtfertigen, hierfür einen vierstelligen Betrag auszugeben (auch angesichts der kürzlichen Erhöhungen des EWV-Mitgliedsbeitrags).
2. Der diesjährige Veranstaltungsort wird viele Delegierte dazu zwingen, mit dem Flugzeug anzureisen (eine Zugreise würde für uns 24-30 Stunden dauern – pro Richtung!) und so für eine zusätzliche Umweltbelastung (CO₂-Emissionen) sorgen, was ebenfalls nicht im Interesse der EWV sein kann.
3. Auch wenn wir den Wert von persönlichen Treffen anerkennen, sollte die EWV danach trachten, möglichst viele MO in ihre Entscheidungsprozesse einzubeziehen. Gemäß Satzung ist ein Quorum von 50 % Anwesenheit der Vollmitglieder erforderlich, was in den vergangenen Jahren nur dadurch erreicht werden konnte, dass MO gebeten wurden, ihr Stimmrecht zu „delegieren“. (Anmerkung: Im Sinne einer guten Zusammenarbeit haben wir das in der Vergangenheit auf Wunsch der EWV gerne getan, auch wenn es oft Personen waren, die uns nicht persönlich bekannt waren und die uns auch nicht danach gefragt haben, wie sie an unserer Stelle abstimmen sollen.)
4. Die Vergangenheit hat gezeigt, dass Online- and Hybrid-Hauptversammlungen (2020 und 2021) in der Tat gut funktionieren und bei Bedarf sogar „spontan“ (Februar 2024) einberufen werden können.

Mit besten Grüßen aus Österreich,


Gert Kienast (ÖAV-Sektion Weitwanderer)

PS: An english translation follows for your convenience!

Motion to the general assembly of the European Ramblers Association (ERA)

Dear friends at ERA,

ÖAV-Sektion Weitwanderer submits the following motion to ERA's general assembly in Montserrat:

We propose that **future general assemblies** are organized in the form of **online or hybrid meetings**. By allowing delegates to participate online (via Zoom, etc.) **the number of member organisations taking part** in ERA's main decision making body **shall be increased**.

Reasoning

The general assembly is the "sovereign" (the main decision-making body) of ERA. Since ERA is a pan-European organization, its members are located in all corners of the continent. Hence it is very difficult and expensive to ensure in-person attendance of representatives of all/enough MO at this important yearly event.

1. Most of these MO are non-profit entities of volunteers ("hiking clubs"), some of which do not have the budget or personal resources to travel and attend a multi-day event abroad. Especially those MO which are financed entirely by membership fees may find it hard to justify a trip costing a 4-figure amount (especially in the light of the recent hikes of ERA's membership fee).
2. This year's location will require many delegates to travel by air (for us train travel would imply 24-30 hours of travel time – each direction!) putting the burden on the environment (huge carbon emissions!), which cannot be in the interest of ERA either.
3. While we do acknowledge the added value of face-to-face meetings, ERA should strive to include as many MO as possible in its decision-making processes. According to ERA's constitution a minimum of 50 % attendance of full members is required, which in the past often could only be reached by asking non-present members to delegate their voting rights. (Remark: we have been requested to do so multiple times and – in the spirit of good cooperation – delegated our voting rights even to persons we did not know personally and who did not ask how they should vote on our behalf.)
4. The past has shown, that online/hybrid general assemblies do work well (2020 and 2021) and can even – if need be – be called "spontaneously" (February 2024).

With best regards from Austria,

Gert Kienast (ÖAV-Sektion Weitwanderer)

10.

Approval of membership fees for 2025

According to the approval taken by the General Meeting held on 30 September 2023 in Itawa, PL, concerning the regular increase of the membership fee since 2024, following the EU Eurostat annual inflation rate, we propose:

Annual inflation rate 2023 published by [EU Eurostat](#): 2,9%

Membership fee adjustment:

	2024	2025
Full membership fee	677 €	697 €
Associated membership fee	568 €	584 €

11.

Plans 2025 for the ERA strategy

Priorities

1. Seek funding and partnerships

Objective: Secure financial stability and resources for ERA activities.

Actions:

- Apply for EU grants and other international funding.
- Seek sponsorships and donations from private companies and philanthropic organizations.
- Develop strategic partnerships with relevant organizations for mutual benefit.

2. Expand manpower resources

Objective: Enhance organizational capacity through increased human resources.

Actions:

- Recruit volunteers and interns from member organizations and external sources.
- Develop training programs for volunteers to ensure quality contributions.
- Collaborate with educational institutions to provide internship opportunities.

3. Increase membership involvement

Objective: Strengthen member engagement and participation in ERA activities.

Actions:

- Organize regular regional and virtual meetings to address member needs and share best practices.
- Encourage member organizations to participate in ERA projects and events.
- Develop a feedback system to gather input and suggestions from members.

4. Promote LQT-BE Long distance and Day Walk initiatives

Objective: Enhance the visibility and quality of walking trails in Europe.

Actions:

- Continue developing and promoting Leading Quality Trails - Best of Europe (LQT-BE).
- Introduce and expand the Day Walk initiative to provide more accessible walking options.
- Implement feedback mechanisms to continuously improve trail standards.

5. ERA RECOMMENDS

Objective: Establish ERA as a trusted authority on walking and hiking recommendations.

Actions:

- Expand the "ERA Recommends" program to include more trails and events.
- Conduct surveys and research to identify top recommendations.
- Promote recommended trails and services through ERA's communication channels.

6. Strengthening ties with European institutions

Objective: Strengthen ties with European institutions to support health and trail initiatives.

Actions:

- Engage in projects and discussions related to public health and environmental sustainability.
- Participate in Council of Europe meetings and contribute to policy-making processes.

Other strategic focus areas

1. Participation in Erasmus+ projects

Objective: Leverage Erasmus+ programs to support youth and/or health engagement.

Actions:

- Develop or participate in projects that align with Erasmus+ objectives.
- Collaborate with educational institutions and youth and/or health organizations to implement these projects.

2. Develop and Implement "Hike Green Europe"

Objective: Promote sustainable hiking practices across Europe.

Actions:

- Test and refine the Green Trails criteria.
- Engage stakeholders and collect data to improve the initiative.
- Prepare for integration into Erasmus+ projects in 2025.

3. Rebranding ERA

Objective: Update ERA's name for better visibility and understanding.

Actions:

- Change the English name to "ERA – Hiking Europe, European Hiking Federation."
- Update branding materials and communication channels to reflect the new name.

4. Enhance quality and standards

Objective: Maintain high standards for trails and events.

Actions:

- Continue implementing and promoting Leading Quality Trails – Best of Europe.
- Develop and test criteria for "ERA Recommends" trails and events.

5. Organize European walking events

Objective: Foster a sense of community and promote walking across Europe.

Actions:

- Support and organize events such as the European Walking Day.
- Promote cross-border walks and collaborative events among member organizations.

6. Active NGO role

Objective: Position ERA as an influential NGO in the European context.

Actions:

- Participate in EU and CoE institutions and initiatives.

- Engage in lobbying and advocacy for a harmonized hiking system in Europe.
- Strengthen relationships with national and regional tourism boards.

7. Cross-Border activities

Objective: Encourage collaboration and exchange among member organizations.

Actions:

- Facilitate bilateral meetings and joint activities among neighboring member organizations.
- Promote and support cross-border walking events e.g. "E6 in 2025".

Projects and Programs

1. Green Trails Initiative

Objective: Develop sustainable hiking trails across Europe.

Actions:

- Test and refine sustainability criteria.
- Engage local communities and stakeholders in the development process.
- Integrate a "Green Chapter" in the LQT system.

2. Hiking Green Europe framework

Objective: Create a comprehensive plan for sustainable hiking practices.

Actions:

- Incorporate lessons learned from Green Trails testing and LQT-BE Green Chapter.
- Develop educational and promotional materials as well as guidelines for trails and sustainability.
- Align with Erasmus+ requirements for future project integration.

3. Working Groups

Objective: Ensure the effective functioning of ERA's working groups.

Actions:

- Maintain current working group objectives and responsibilities.
- Set clear time limits and deliverables for each group.
- Encourage collaboration and communication among working groups.

12.

Budget 2024 – 2025

Receipts (€)	Result 2023	Plan 2024	Review 2024	Plan 2025
Membership fee	38 820	40 500	42 565	46 992
ERA Foundation	2 220	1 200	2 000	1 500
Fahrbach Foundation	623	200	500	500
Income Partnership	5 300	5 000	5 000	5 000
Special donation from DWV, FIE, FECC	4 500	3 000	2 000	2 000
<i>Marketing and projects:</i>				
Sponsoring	-	-	-	500
LQT-BE, Long distance	2 310	2 000	1 500	950
LQT-BE, Day Walks	4 100	34 000	19 300	30 000
Walk Leader	1 125	1 000	1 680	1 200
Aqua Walking	300	500	300	300
ERASMUS+ project	17 227	-	-	5 000
Sale of materials	0	0	50	0
<i>Ambitions</i>	-	5 000	1 000	4 500
Total Receipts	76 525	92 400	75 895	93 942
Payments (€)	Result 2023	Plan 2024	Review 2024	Plan 2025
Board	11 337	5 000	7 000	8 000
Travelling president	591	4 000	1 000	1 000
General Meeting	7 710	8 000	9 000	8 000
Special activities	-	-	3 000	0
<i>Working groups:</i>				
E-paths	2 932	3 000	1 200	2 000
LQT-BE Day Walks	5 480	3 500	1 200	1 000
LQT-BE Regions	0	500	0	500
Competition Activities	0		0	0
ERA Aqua Walking Steering Committee	0		0	0
ERA Sponsoring	0		0	0
ERA Archive	567	300	0	0
<i>Administration:</i>				
Staff cost	30 387	32 000	32 500	33 000
Travelling expences staff	1 211	1 500	1 200	1 500
Post, phone, internet	1 110	1 400	1 200	1 400
Rent	8 314	8 640	9 000	9 940
Translation cost	660	1 000	300	300
VAT adviser	-	-	5 600	0
Other cost	500	500	1 000	500
Insurance	942	980	950	1 000
<i>Marketing and projects:</i>				
Marketing & webpages & FB & ZOOM	1 764	3 500	2 000	1 000
LQT-BE, Long distance	1 443	6 000	600	1 300
LQT-BE, Day Walks (incl. know-how transfer)	10 596	19 000	13 000	13 500
Walk Leader	0	0	0	0

Purchase of materials	0	0	1 300	1 300
Exchange costs, Charge / Commission	457	600	600	600
VAT	1 900	950	950	950
Total payments	87 900	100 370	92 600	86 790
Receipts (deficit) for the year	-11 375	-7 970	-16 705	7 152
Bank corrections		128		
Total funds brought forward	43 702	32 327	32 327	16 022
Net receipts (deficit) for the year	-11 375	-7 970	-16 705	7 152
Total funds carried forward	32 327	24 485	16 022	23 174
Status in the accounts	32 455			

ERA Financial Plan and Budget 2024 - 2025

2024 Overview:

In 2024, we commenced the development of the LQT-BE Day Walk programme with full momentum. The initiation of training courses and trail inspections has positively impacted our budget.

As ERA explores new areas, the demands on the ERA Board and working groups have increased. To facilitate agreements and future collaborations, physical internal meetings and negotiations with partners are essential.

We extend our gratitude to the many volunteers who closely collaborate with the Board and office, and those who contribute as part of the working groups, primarily meeting online. These new developments require initial investments, and we are currently in a phase of enhancing our future financial stability by seeking to diversify our income sources beyond membership fees.

The figures for the ERASMUS+ project include expected income from two projects that have been successfully accepted.

Since February 2024, due to continuing problems with the Commerzbank, a ERA bank account was opened at the Ostsächsische Sparkasse Dresden, Filiale Pirna, Gartenstr. 40, D-01796 Pirna

DE92 8505 0300 0221 2968 67

BIC: OSDDDE81XXX

1. Budget for 2024:

On the Receipts side, we have received nearly €39,000 in membership fees for 2024, with additional contributions still expected.

Regarding income from Partnerships, we are cautious due to the lingering economic effects on some of our partners, who continue to be impacted by the financial crises of recent years. Nevertheless, we are maintaining communication with them and are developing new partnerships, such as with International Aqua Walking.

This situation has led us to adjust our "Ambitions" estimates downward. We appeal to member organizations, partners, and individual members to provide additional support to ERA through our

[Donation page](#), which will help us navigate the initial years of investment and move toward financial stability.

On the Payments side, we have added new categories for better clarity on spending:

- **Special Activities:** This includes significant events that ERA is organizing or partnering in, such as the 3rd European Trails and Paths Conference, scheduled to be held in Paris in November 2024, in collaboration with EUMA and FFRandonnée.
- **VAT Adviser:** We have engaged a German tax consultant to improve our financial situation through legal measures in accordance with German law—specifically, by reclaiming VAT and developing ERA's Day Walks business within a legal framework.

The inflation outlook appears more favorable, and we anticipate a lower increase in expenditures for the ERA office. By the end of 2024, we expect a deficit of € -16,705.

2. Budget for 2025:

For 2025, we are conservatively estimating our receipts, given the challenges we've faced in retaining or attracting new partners in recent years. Thus, we are only budgeting for known income sources. However, the ERA Board and the Treasurer remain committed to continuously seeking new financial resources to avoid a steady increase in membership fees. We have invested significant effort in advertising and hosting webinars for the LQT-BE Day Walk programme to generate greater interest from stakeholders in the years to come.

On the Payments side, we aim to keep expenditures as low as possible to ensure more funds can be carried forward for our financial future. The ERA office remains securely based in Prague, with stable expenses. The work of the various working groups, which is primarily conducted virtually, will continue to be fully supported by the ERA Board, resulting in minimal costs. Under the "Purchase of Materials" category, we have budgeted for the production of Walk Leader pins.

By the end of 2025, we expect to achieve a positive balance of €7,152.

Financial status clarification:

The total funds carried forward are calculated based on budget items. However, this does not necessarily correspond completely to the status of ERA accounts (bank or cash) for the same period, as some payments, such as rent or insurance, must be made in advance, often at the end of the previous year. Additionally, staff salaries for December are typically paid in the following year. Consequently, there is always a discrepancy between the budget table for the calendar year and the account table as of December 31st. To provide clear information regarding the account status, we have added a line, "Status in the Accounts," to the budget table.

Thank you

Steen Kobberø-Hansen

Treasurer

1 September 2024

13.

ERA Foundation

Foundation statement on 31 December 2023

Assets and liabilities 31.12.2023/ Aktiva und Passiva 31.12.2023	€
Securities - market value per 31.12.2023 / Wertpapiere zum Wert vom 31.12.2023	99 786,38
Bank deposits Giro account / Girokonto	7 616,94
Termingeld	10 000,00
Closing balance 31.12.2022 / Schlussbestand 31.12.2022	117 403,32
Revenue in 2023 / Einnahmen in 2023	€
Donation / Spenden	0,00
Interest / Zinsen	6 792,80
total / gesamt	6 792,80
Expenditure 2023 / Ausgaben 2023	€
Custody fees / Depotgebühren	142,72
Postal charges and other fees / Porto- und weitere Gebühren	749,70
Contributions for ERA / Zuschüsse für EWV in 2023	2 220,00
Reserve/Rücklage	4 430,08
total / gesamt	7 542,50

Prepared by Karin Kunz
 12 August 2024



14.

General meeting in 2025

Macôn, France: 2nd – 5th October 2025

15.

General meetings in 2026, 2027

General meeting in 2026: Serbia (organized by Planinarski Savez Srbije)

General meeting in 2027: ???

16.

EURORANDO 2026

Date: 20 – 27 September 2026
Place: Erzgebirge (Ore Mountains, D/CZ border area)
Organiser: Tourismusverband Erzgebirge,
Klub českých turistů,
Destinační agentura “Krušnohoř”



Enclosures:

Programme of the Know-How sessions on Friday, 4th October 2024

time	session	speaker	spoken language
08:30-09:00	LQT ViaBerna (from the idea to the opening)	Bernhard Schmidt	ENG
09:05-09:25	LQT-BE Day Walks	Steen Kobberø-Hansen Jana Harnochová	ENG
09:30-09:50	Accessibility of walking in private areas (e.g. farmers)	Ankie van Dijk	ENG
09:55-10:25	Study on the digital behaviour of hikers	Liane Jordan	ENG
10:30-10:40	Reducing emissions in huts	Dr. Architect Nic Tulban	ENG
10:45-10:55	E-CrossPass	Ivana Tucović	ENG
11:00-11:30	Coffee break		
11:30-11:45	Better communication outside MO-community	Steen Kobberø-Hansen	ENG
11:50-12:10	Exchange among members, from different countries (Development of different activities by hiking org.)	Séverine Ikkawi Sophie Chipon	ENG
	What role can the European Federation play in facilitating the exchange of hikers between countries within Europe? Can ERA be seen as a facilitator, as a platform for information and contacts, so that all the European clubs can walk across the whole playground that is Europe?		
12:15-13:45	SLIDO working group	Moderated by: Steen Kobberø-Hansen Joep Naber	ENG
	The workshop will take a collaborative approach through roundtable discussions, encouraging active participation and diverse perspectives.		

Programme of the Presentations on Saturday, 5th October 2024

time	session	speaker	spoken language	translation
09:00-11:00	General Meeting			
11:00-11:30	Coffee break			
11:30-11:40	E6 event in Slovenia (E-path workshop)	Steen Kobberø-Hansen	ENG	simult.
11:45-12:05	Hiker's friendly label for Baltic trails	Asnāte Ziemele	ENG	simult.
12:10-12:25	Hiking in Colombia – the Country of Biodiversity	Jorge Ríos (Colombia Hiking Federation)	ENG	simult.
12:30-13:15	POCTEFA DESIR & ENTREPYR – projects of FECC	Josep Casanovas	FRA	simult.

Krušné hory / Erzgebirge
20.–27. 9. 2026



www.euroorando2026.eu

Turistický festival
Wanderfestival
Hiking festival
Festival de randonnée

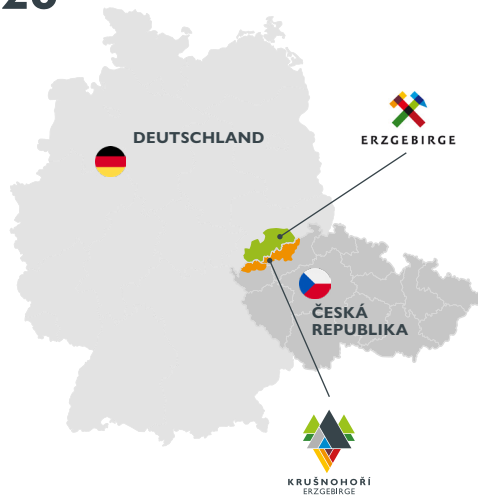
EURORANDO 2026

Turistika v Krušnohoří
v srdci Evropy

Wandern im Erzgebirge
im Herzen Europas

Hiking in the Ore Mountains
in the heart of Europe

Randoneé dans les Monts
Métallifères au cœur de l'Europe



Interreg



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