

Summaries of ERA Documents - 2021

01 II.2 ERA Conference 2021 - Leading Quality Best of Europe

This document presents the Leading Quality Trails (LQT) – Best of Europe initiative, which classifies trails into three categories: 1) Long-distance trails over 50 km, 2) Day walks between 4-25 km, and 3) Quality hiking regions that offer guaranteed pleasure for hikers. The document describes the process for certifying these trails and regions and informs about upcoming procedural updates for 2022.

02 II.3 2021-09 ERA Conference - LQ Day Walks

This document focuses on the development of Leading Quality Day Walks, part of the LQT-BE initiative. Day Walks are shorter, high-quality trails that last a maximum of one day and need to meet strict standards regarding surface quality, safety, and signage. Examples from Denmark and Luxembourg are provided to illustrate the application of these standards in practice.

03 VI.12 2021-09 E-paths - General Meeting

This presentation discusses the promotion and development of E-paths, focusing on digital tools and social media to engage younger walkers. It reports that 48% of country pages for E-paths have been verified and highlights collaborations like the Canadian Liberation Route, which will follow parts of the E9. Plans for the 50th anniversary of the E-paths in 2022 are also mentioned, including discussions about future updates and improvements to the trail system.

04 III.6 Cultural Routes DEU

This document details the renewed relationship between ERA and the Council of Europe, focusing on the Cultural Routes program. These routes often overlap with hiking trails, creating opportunities for collaboration. ERA has already signed agreements with projects like the Liberation Route and the Route of the Cistercians. The document outlines plans to involve member organizations more closely in the development of new cultural routes and improve coordination with existing ones.

05 III.8 Routes of Cistercians

The Route of Cistercians is a long-distance trail connecting various Cistercian monasteries across Europe. The route traces the historical expansion of the Cistercian Order and includes key monasteries, farmsteads, and culturally important towns. The trail is designed

to follow existing hiking paths where possible and can be walked in both directions. The project is being led by organizations in Germany, Poland, and the Czech Republic.

06 IV.9 Landscape Convention DEU

This document highlights ERA's involvement in the European Landscape Convention, which promotes landscape preservation as part of European cultural and natural heritage. ERA has participated as an observer in the Convention's meetings and contributed to discussions on the role of hiking organizations in landscape management. It also discusses the European Landscape Day, celebrated on October 20 each year, as a way to raise awareness about the value of landscapes.