NEWSLETTER No. 8/2020



News from the last presidium meeting

The new ERASMUS+ period will be open from 2021 to 2027. We are waiting for new proposals from the EU. The presidium will inform member organisations about possible projects/topics, which should be applied for by ERA in the coming two years. ERA will look for interested and helpful people and MOs to be partners in such projects.





The 6th annual meeting of the Leading Quality Trails – Best of Europe was held online on 4-5 November. The largest number of LQT-BE stakeholders participated since the beginning of the annual meetings. The ERA presidium wants to more actively promote LQT-BE, the first step has been done on the <u>ERA website</u> by an update of all 20 LQT-BE. The presidium agreed to organise a ZOOM meeting for all interested ERA MOs in 03-04/2021 and inform them about the LQT-BE – what is the value, how to promote it ... ERA will also send an invitation to the local organisations who are cooperating with the local bodies.

The presidium approved the final text "ERA recommends". The ERA presidium (board) will make the final decision which organisations or



products are entitled to use the label and under what conditions. The approval will be assigned a special logo.

All member organisations can still send comments or ideas for plans of the ERA strategy. This offer is open until the end of 2020. At its next meeting the members of the presidium will evaluate the proposals and prepare a ZOOM workshop for interested member organisations.

Karl Schneider

In silent remembrance we inform you that our long-time honorary member Karl Schneider passed away on Saturday, 12 December 2020 at the age of 86. Karl Schneider was President of the German Ramblers' Association from 1993 to 2007 and from 1995 to 2003 he held the position of 1st Vice-President of the European Ramblers' Association. Karl Schneider was a visionary and played an important role in the establishment of the ERA Foundation. We will



remember Karl Schneider in honour and memory as a friend and important companion of the German and European hiking movement.

E-paths



The E-path working group is working hard collecting actual data for the <u>ERA website</u>. Please send relevant data to the members of the working group, if you are missing them there. <u>More info</u> here.

The working group discussed the promotion of E-paths connected with the European Week of Sport. This event is held every year from 23 - 30 Sept. under the auspices of the EU across Europe. ERA member organisations are requested to prepare a walk for a smaller group on the E-path in

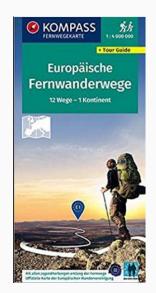
their neighbourhood during these dates. We can show to the EU bodies, how walking keeps people moving and helps with good health. More details will come in the next newsletter.

The presidium approved the extention of E12 in the Calabria region, Italy. As is the whole concept of E12, this section of E-path will also follow the Mediterranean coast line.

The presidium approved the extention of E11 accross Lithuania. E11 is expected to follow the <u>"Forrest Trail</u>" which connects all three Baltic countries: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

E-paths map

Our general partner KOMPASS-Karten, in cooperation with EUFED and ERA, published a new version of <u>E</u>-<u>paths map</u>. The scale is 1:4 000 000. The map includes all youth hostels along each E-path. A tour guide is also part of this set, where you can get facts and overview of all E-paths for planning your long-distance trips and a list with contacts to the youth hostels, as well.



E-paths certificates

In the year 2020, the following walkers used E-paths in an outstanding way and fulfilled the rules to obtain the E-path certificates.

Certificate 1:

The same E-path must be walked in 3 different countries, with the minimun of 50 km in each country, completed within 3 consecutive years:

Detlef Körner, D Ulrich Link, D Marleen Tonissen, NL Rob Vaessens, NL Boudewijn Blom-Hertbeek, NL

Certificate 2:

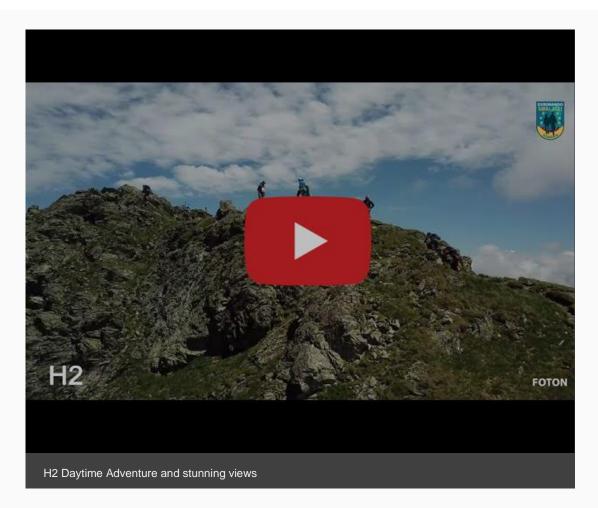
The award is given to a person who has walked on at least 6 different Epaths, within 3 consecutive years, the minimum is 20 kms per walk: **Boudewijn Blom-Hertbeek, NL**

Congratulations! All other interested E-path walkers are welcome to apply. Pls. <u>check the conditions here</u>.



Approach of the European Winter Walking Days

The European Winter Walking Days take place from 11 to 14 March 2021. The organisers have prepared 8 guided hikes between Thursday and Sunday. They invite all to the official opening Ceremony, torch-lit walk on the "Wiesenweg" to St. Oswald or to the toboggan trip in Rauchenbach. The special package for the Days starts from € 165,00 per person incl. breakfast. The organisers have taken into account the Corona safety & hygiene regulations. Payment of fees (€ 100 deposit) will be refunded 100 % in case of cancellation of the event or Covid regulations. The registration is open here.



EURORANDO

Join the next Eurorando which will be marked by two main events from 26 September to 30 October 2021 and from 11 to 18 September 2022. They will take place for the first time in the beautiful region of Sibiu, Transylvania -Romania. The event is organised by SKV (Siebenbürgischer Karpatenverein), under the patronage of ERA, Sibiu City Hall and Sibiu County Council. The charming medieval Transylvanian town has a little bit of everything, for everyone's heart desires. 20 breathtaking trails including both hiking and cultural trails are waiting to be discovered in the beautiful region of Sibiu. <u>Read more here</u>. Check the website and book your Eurorando trip <u>www.eurorando.eu</u>



Conclusion

Dear readers, we hope all of you have lived through the year 2020 safely. This year has been very special for all of us, we have learned new possibilities, how to communicate, how to promote safe walking and keep walkers in a good physical, but also physiological shape. We hope to meet again in 2021.

The ERA presidium wishes you Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2021 !



General partner: KOMPASS-Karten GmbH

Partners: <u>Tirol Werbung</u> <u>Deutscher Wanderverband Service GmbH</u> <u>European Federation of Youth Hostel Associations</u> European Union of Mountaineering Associations European Week of Sport - #beActive Traildino

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Our mailing address is: secretariat@era-ewv-ferp.com

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