



ERA·EWV·FERP



North-Eastern Regional ERA Meeting

13 - 15 April 2012

Bratislava, Slovakia



BRATISLAVA



Bratislavský
samosprávny
kraj



SLOVENSKE
ELEKTRÁRNE

www.era-ewv-ferp.com
www.kst.sk

Dear Walking Friends

We are honored once again to host an international group with ERA participants. First time was it in 1996 in Jasna, under a ridge of the Low Tatra Mountains, now for this regional meeting is it here, in the capital of the Slovak Republic, in Bratislava.

The Slovak tourist club is the dominant walking organization in Slovakia: it has over 15,000 members, grouped in more than 400 local clubs across the country and is representing Slovak walkers in the ERA. Our organization is focused not only on walking, but also on other forms of outdoor activities, which our country and the changing of the summer and winter season allow us: we educate instructors and trainers for skiing, mountain biking, alpine hiking, water (river) and equestrian activities. We try to develop the walking section for the disabled. We have a separate youth section to provide children with an attractive program of leisure activities in the nature.

In addition, apart from the year-round program activities, the Slovak tourists club is responsible for waymarked paths. The section of waymarking maintains and restores systematically the network with a total length of 14 000 km. Some of our paths are a part of the European long-distance footpaths - E8 (length of Slovak part is 800 km), E3 (518 km) and I23 (706 km).

When we undertook to organize this regional meeting, we did it in the hope that we could make our own activities visible and help the development of tourism in Slovakia. I am pleased to say that we found an understanding at the level of state and municipal governments and other partners. I would like to thank the Prime Minister, the Ministry of transportation, building- up, and regional development - the Tourism Section, the Chairman of Bratislava self-governing Region Mr. Pavel Frešo and the Bratislava's Mayor Mr. Milan Ftáčnik for providing auspices. Thanks also to the Slovak Tourist Board and Slovenské elektrárne, a.s., (ENEL Group) for their big support.

I hope you will remember Bratislava as a place for successful and fruitful discussions and you will return to Slovakia soon again. We are looking forward to welcoming you back to even more significant event - the 46th Annual ERA conference in 2015.

Peter Perhala
President of the Slovak tourists club



ECO AWARD of ERA 2012

In liaison with its partner - **GDF SUEZ Foundation** - ERA is setting up a contest to reward European ramblers' initiatives in favour of the protection of the environment and the footpaths, significant for sustainable development, etc.

Organizations directly affiliated to ERA or through their associations may participate in this contest. These organizations may be represented at the event by an individual or a group of people.

The actions presented in the contest must

- highlight the walking activity and the Rambler's environment
- contribute towards a friendly environmental way of walking

The action can be ...

- a "one shot" or a long term one
- managed at a national, regional or local level

The first 3 best actions will be awarded a financial prize of:

1 500 € (1st prize)
1 000 € (2nd prize)
500 € (special prize)

The detailed entry form and the participation conditions can be downloaded at www.era-ewv-ferp.com

The ECO-Award Winner 2011



The Schopflocher Moor in the Swabian Alb.



Leading Quality Trails - Best of Europe

Walking is very popular. All over Europe more and more people tie their boot laces during their holidays and leisure time, and discover a variety of natural beauties on foot.

The special quality certificate of "Leading Quality Trails - Best of Europe" offers a transparent system of criteria for the improvement of trail quality throughout Europe.

The criteria can be used as a checklist and help countries that have to build up their walking route network. In countries that already have a functioning route network, such a system can strengthen walking tourism further.

With the "Leading Quality Trails – Best of Europe", the ERA sets an European standard bringing multiple uses for walking tourism:

- giving the walking tourist an overview and decision aid
- giving regard to ecology and nature preservation
- involvement of all affected parties in the quality process
- trained and competent trail experts in the area e.g. from walking groups, wildlife reserves and tourism
- competitive edge for the walking region in marketing

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Dear Walkers

It is with great pleasure I come to Slovakia to participate in the second Regional ERA-meeting. It will be an opportunity to build networks between walkers in the region and to learn more about the many possibilities for walkers in Slovakia.

A big thanks to KST and its partners for organizing this event.

We will in the meetings also discuss the European long-distance paths in the region and how they can be promoted in a digital world. The new label "Leading Quality Trail – best of Europe" will be presented and the many different criteria discussed. It is my hope this will lead to an increase of quality for walking trails – all over Europe - in the coming years.

I am looking forward to the discussions in Bratislava.

Lis Nielsen

President of European Ramblers Association



ERA European Ramblers Association
EWV Europäische Wandervereinigung
FERP Fédération Européenne de la Randonnée Pédestre

55 members in 30 countries
2.700.000 organised walkers

Working for:

- 12 European long distance paths cross-border paths
- protecting the countryside
- a knowledge of European history and culture
- free access to the countryside
- cross-border cooperation
- the organisation of pan-European events



Agenda

- Presentation of ERA and its commissions
- Presentation of KST and its main activities
- Presentation of the ideas behind the E-paths
- Status of the E-paths in the region
- Introduction to "Leading Quality Trails – best of Europe"
- Network within the region?
- EU-project for countries within EU
- ERA-Eco-Award
- News from other countries.



Program

Friday, 13th April

- the afternoon - arrival of the participants
- 19:00 – welcome buffet
- 20:30 – meeting

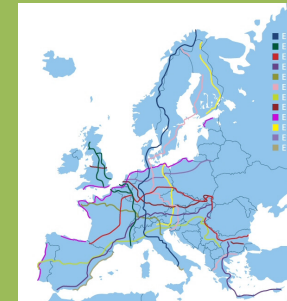
Saturday, 14th April

- 09:00 – North - Eastern Regional ERA Meeting
- 13:30 – lunch
- 14:30 – Bratislava old town walk
- 16:30 – continuation of North - Eastern Regional ERA Meeting
- 20:00 – dinner, networking, discussions

Sunday, 15th April

- 09:00 – meeting
- 11:00 – departure

European Long-distance paths



The European long distance paths link the European countries from North Cape to Crete and from the Atlantic Ocean to the Carpathians and the Black Sea. There are 12 E-Paths, bearing the name of E1 to E12.

These E-Paths are maintained by national or regional walking associations, members of the European Ramblers Association (ERA - FERP - EWV). The E-Paths run already on existing national or regional trails with their own marking.

