


Estonian Ramblers' Association
Eesti Matkaliit




Footpaths in Estonia – service quality


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Definition

Vastutustundlik matkamine – matkamine, matkatingimuste loomine (koos vastavate sotsiaalsete hoiakute ja väärtushinnangutega) selliselt, et oleks tagatud praegu ja tulevikus looduskeskkonna säilimine ja looduskaunite kohtade kättesaadavus, samuti matkamisega seotud riskide minimeerimine.

Responsible tourism – tourism, creating conditions for tourism (including certain social bearings and values) in the way that the natural environment preservation and accessibility is provided with today and in the future, also minimising tourism related risks.

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Footpath service

- Self-service
- Guided service

Matkaraja teenus – mõlemale sihtgrupile suunatud tegevused matkaraja loomisel ja hooldamisel ning aktiivsed teenused rajal liikujaile.

Footpath service – different activities in creating and maintaining footpaths, also active services targeted to the footpath users.

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Main topics

1. Quality of the footpaths
 - assessment
 - regulations, instructions
2. Service quality
 - group leaders (rambling instructors)
 - profession certification

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Footpaths in Estonia

The total amount of footpaths is 300

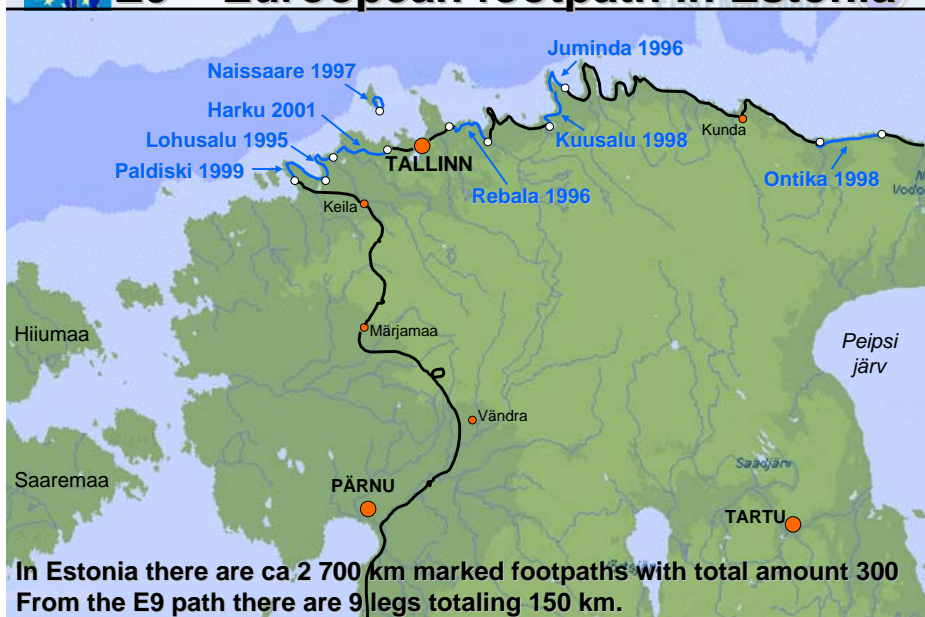
Most of them are in the area of South-Estonia, Tallinn and Tartu

The average length of one footpath is 9 km

The total length of footpaths is 2 700 km

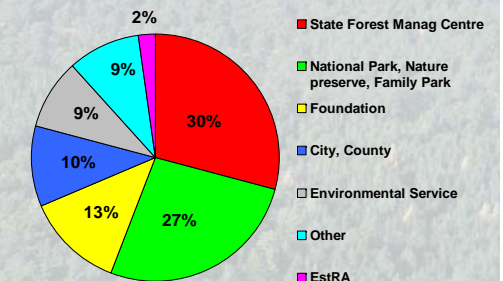


E9 – European footpath in Estonia




The operators of footpaths

- there are many operators of the footpaths
- no coordinating body
- some regulations in the footpaths' construction area





Scope of the footpath certification

Carried out in 2004

111 footpaths with total length of 709 km



The evaluation parameters 1

1. **Footpath difficulty** easy (green), moderate (blue), difficult (red)
2. **Type of footpath (radial or linear)**
3. **The quality of the footpath general markings** 😊 without guide
☹️ with guide
4. **The quality of the footpath markings** 5-point scale
5. **Walking season** (summer; spring-summer-autumn; over the year)
6. **The quality of information on the footpath** 5-point scale
7. **The quality of the way pointers** 5-point scale
8. **The quality of campfire places, amount** 5-point scale
9. **The quality of camping sites, amount** 5-point scale



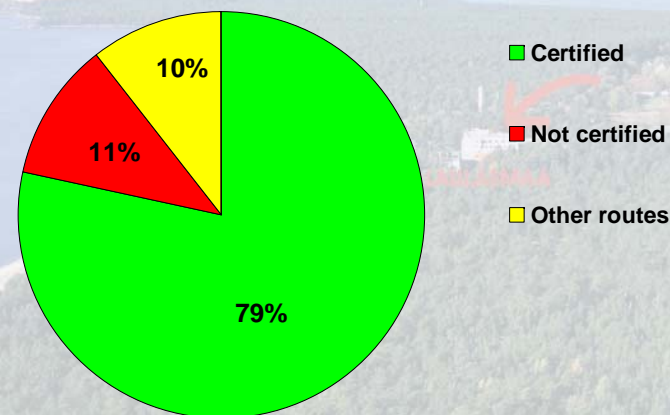
The evaluation parameters 2

Additional information that was gathered:

- exact coordinates at both ends of the footpath
- access description of the footpath
- time to pass the footpath, the length of the footpath
- the quality of written information about the footpath (info material languages)
- dominating footpath cover (natural forest track, asphalt, wooden track, etc)
- theme of the footpath (nature, forest, healing, educational, etc)
- owner of the footpath
- operator of the footpath
- services on the footpath (up to 1 km from the path):
 - guide
 - eating
 - hostel, hotel, B&B
- additional information sources about the footpath (phone, etc)



Certified footpaths



The main reason not to certify was the weakness of marking

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Regulations about construction and operation footpaths

1. Matkaradade planeerimise, rajamise ja haldamise juhend, 2006, EAS
Code of practice about planning, buidling and operating footpaths, 2006, Enterprice Estonia
www.eas.ee Avalikule ja mittetulundussektorile\ Piirkondade konkurentsivõime tugevdamise väikeprojektide programml\ Juhendid
2. Matkaradade ehitamine ja haldamine, koostamisel EML poolt
Construction and operating footpaths, under development Estonian Ramblers' Association

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Construction and operating footpaths

The most valuable parts of this document are:

- the footpath planning
- the footpath markings
- certification of the footpaths
- organising tours on the footpaths

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Footpath markings₁

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Footpath markings₂

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Group leaders certification system in Estonia

- The goal is to raise the quality of different kinds of sport activities and reduce the risks
- Was established in 2004 in the initiative of Estonian Olympic Committee for all kinds of sport activities, incl rambling
- 5-level quality system. 1 – the lowest level, 5 – the highest level
- connected directly to the state trade education system



EESTI OLÜMPIAKOMITEE
Estonian Olympic Committee



Estonian Ramblers' Association
Established in 1991
Non-profit organisation

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Certification system include

1. control of general knowledge about nature preservation, physiology, psychology, group management and other areas
2. control of professional knowledge (according to a specific type of tourism)
3. control of practical knowledge (practical exercises)

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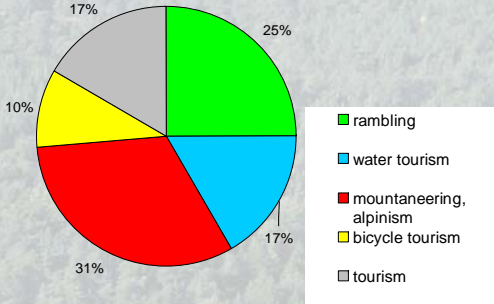


Professionally certified group leaders in the tourism area

- total amount of certified group leaders is 72



Level	Number of Leaders
5-th level	0
4-th level	0
3-rd level	12
2-nd level	22
1-st level	38



Activity	Percentage
rambling	25%
water tourism	17%
mountaneering, alpinism	31%
bicycle tourism	10%
tourism	17%

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Conclusion

1. The service on the footpaths is a part of creating a responsible attitude
2. Exchanging practical information in Estonia and in Europe is essential to implement a responsible way of thinking towards rambling



Thank you!