

## **Minutes of the ERA Footpath Commission's meeting 26 september 2008, on the occasion of 39<sup>th</sup> ERA Member's Meeting in Blansko, Czechia**

### **Present:**

33 participants from 15 European countries (Slovenia, Portugal, the Netherlands, Spain, France, Germany, Belgium, Serbia, Bulgaria, Denmark, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Czechia, Hungary)

### **Agenda:**

(8.30 a.m.)

#### **1. Welcome and a look back to 2007/2008**

Chairman Uroš Vidovič of the Footpath Commission welcomed all the participants and gave a short explanation of the agenda.

#### **2. Approval of the report of the last members' meeting in Laulasmaa.**

Uroš Vidovič:

The minutes of last year's meeting in Laulasmaa, Estonia: no comments; minutes were approved.

#### **3. Information of Seminar in Malaga (Spain)**

Pedro Cuiça:

Pedro started by telling about several facts of other matters, which was not actually a matter of the seminar, like European way-marks, problems of the E-paths and so on (see 5 and 6).

Frank Schlinzig from Germany was correcting by explaining Seminar of Malaga discussed about right of passage and access for waymarked footpaths.

#### **4. Information of the presidiums' meeting in La Palma**

Uroš Vidovič:

Uroš gave a short review of his activities during the last year.

#### **5. Today's problems of all the E-paths, E1 to E11.**

Uroš Vidovič:

Questionnaire about E-paths are send to each organization.

Questions about which E-paths are taking care, kind of waymarks, kind of problems concerning E-paths, proposals for the better work in the ERA Footpath Commission.

Nine countries did send back this questionnaire.

Waymarking is different everywhere.

Italy doesn't have enough money for waymarking.

Finland is not ready yet to waymark some parts of their paths.

Germany has guide books of E1 and E5, then only maps.

A proposal is made for an European E-path-logo: a blue field of about 7 x 9 cm with yellow 'European' stars and a big yellow 'E' with number, with small yellow bookmarks (in language of crossing country) the extreme towns of the concerning footpath. For instance like a sticker. In any case supplementary to the local waymarks, for instance 1 waymark every kilometer.

- In fact Sweden and England are using already bleu waymarks with yellow European stars and an E-number.
- Greece has a proper yellow/black way-mark for their E-paths.
- In the Germany have a different waymarking signs for E-paths.

The logo of the waymarks needs to give directives and supplementary; if there is no European money for that: every organization will be asked to develop and organize these marks by her selves.

For final deciding in the meeting of 2009 in La Palma three proposals will be made.

And also:

- More and better information about every E-path will be given on the own website of ERA.
- Maybe it is possible to develop a book-guide of each E-path, with less text and more maps 1:100.000.
- The local government of the Canary Island of La Palma is interesting by developing a new general map of all E-paths (European long distance footpaths) with a lot of facts.

### **7. a. Presentation of Geolives.**

Yves Peeters:

Yves Peeters from a commercial company of Belgium showed us Geolives, an internet program of looking for maps and buying digital information for rambling. This system could be interesting for our E-paths.

For more information: see [www.geolives.com](http://www.geolives.com) and [www.georando.com](http://www.georando.com)

### **6. Relations between E-paths, international paths and pilgrims-paths.**

Uroš Vidovič:

Dr. Robert Wurst from Austria used this agenda-point to tell about a renewing general map of company Freytag + Berndt with E-paths and Pilgrim-ways. (The current general map of Freytag + Berndt is dated 2001).

Uroš summarized there are no problems between E-paths and pilgrim-ways: they are not real comparable.

### **8. E-paths: network in Southeast Europe.**

Jan Havelka

Jan told about developing of long distance footpaths in Southeast of Europe (Balkan). At this moment a big part of Southeast Europe is a white spot, because there are no rambling-organizations there, which are also members of the ERA; only in Greece, Bulgaria and Serbia. Still there is a kind of contact with Macedonia, Montenegro and Croatia. No contact: Bosnia-Herzegovina and Romania.

Jan will try to interest an Czech energy-company, which is working in this area, to give financial support to develop proper rambling-organizations.

### **9. Any other business.**

Norway wants to prolong the E1 to Nordkap: approval everybody.

(Norway will be asked to prolong the E6 to Nordkap as well.)

Spain wants to exchange a part of the E4 and E7 in Spain itself.

Spain also wants to develop the E10 around the Mediterranean Sea, but not everybody believes this is realistic.

(End of the meeting: 12.35 p.m.)

For the minutes:

Rob Franssen, Bergen op Zoom, 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2008.