



**ERA European Ramblers' Association**

**EWV Europäische Wandervereinigung**

**FERP Fédération Européenne de la Randonnée Pédestre**

**Newsletter 3/2018**

**September 2018**

#### **ERA conference – news**

The 49<sup>th</sup> ERA conference will be held from 27–30 September 2018 in Echternach (LUX). The organisers are the Ministry for the Economy - Directorate General Tourism and the Regional Tourist Office of the Mullerthal Region – Luxembourg's Little Switzerland. Taking advantage of the fact that the ERA conference is taking place there this year, members of the neighbouring federations (France-Grand Est and Hauts de France-Belgium, SGR-Netherlands, Germany) have decided to organise walks starting from their respective countries and converging in Echternach on E-paths E2 and E3. This is intended to put these great paths across Europe in the spotlight and thus attract everyone to a network that is the pride of the ERA and the federations concerned. Participants will join the delegates on Thursday, 27 September, and share festive celebrations with them.

All delegates are requested to advise the organisers of their travel schedules to Luxembourg and back. Due to very busy programme the delegates will not be able to return to their accommodation during the day. Please consider this information when preparing for the conference.

For delegates we have a very important General Meeting, where the ERA strategy will be discussed. The meeting documents have been published on the ERA homepage. A knowledge of the documentation is required. 6 big Know-how sessions and one smaller information session will be held for the participants this year. A short report on each session will be a part of the minute of the General Meeting. The topics are:

- Digitalisation and Walking
- KOMPASS - Improve analogue quality with digital support
- Regular Alpine Walking & Water walking
- E-paths signposting
- Certification of Leading Quality Region – Best of Europe & Leading Quality Daywalk – Best of Europe
- MTB and walking - situation, challenges and measures using the example of Switzerland and Germany
- Walk Leader programme



## European Week of Sport 2018

Close to 26,000 events are registered this year. Is your walking event included in this number? ERA member organisations are very welcome to subscribe this sporting activity held between 23 – 30 September 2018. This year's opening ceremony for the event will be held together with Austria's Day of Sport in Vienna on 22 September 2018.

You need to contact your national coordinator for registration (the ERA office will help you with those coordinators' contacts). You will then find in your calendar of walking activities the event which best fits to those dates, register and give your walking activity with the logo of #BeActive European Week of Sport. And finally – enjoy the event!

To see more check the website: [https://ec.europa.eu/sport/week\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/sport/week_en)

**#BEACTIVE**  
European Week of Sport

## 1<sup>st</sup> Andros On Foot Festival & 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Panhellenic Trails Meeting

Coming this October...!

In 2015 Andros was the first island in Europe to receive the European Leading Quality Trails-Best of Europe certification for the 100 kilometers long Andros Route. Today, 170 kms of the island's hiking network has been restored and waymarked to European standards. As the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of certification is reached a recertification inspection will take place. To mark this milestone, Andros Routes, the non-profit co-ordinator of the Andros footpaths project, is organising the 1<sup>st</sup> Andros On Foot Festival from 6-28 October 2018. The Festival, which is dedicated to both the people of Andros and its visitors, will be a celebration of the unique beauty of Andros experienced on foot. You can register for the festival here: [www.androsonfootfestival.gr/en/register/guest/](http://www.androsonfootfestival.gr/en/register/guest/)



The festival will include the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Panhellenic Trails Meeting, organised with the cooperation of the Greek Environment Ministry. It will take place during the weekend of 12-14 October 2018.

For more information about the On Foot Festival and on the Panhellenic Trails Meeting visit:

[www.androsonfootfestival.gr](http://www.androsonfootfestival.gr)

and the welcome video: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=KeLKy3LgDnw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KeLKy3LgDnw)

or email: [info@androsonfootfestival.gr](mailto:info@androsonfootfestival.gr)

## 4<sup>th</sup> Leading Quality Trails Network Meeting

The 4<sup>th</sup> Leading Quality Trail network meeting will be held from 5-6 November 2018 on Via Dinarica in Bosnia and Herzegovina in Mt. Bjelašnica. The official invitation will come soon.

## Dr. Robert Wurst

An ERA honorary president and representative of Österreichischer Alpenverein – Sektion Wien und Niederösterreich, passed away on 11 March 2018. He gave himself wholeheartedly to ERA and to the notion of connecting the Western and Eastern parts of Europe by the European long distance paths. He was the chairman of the Path commission between 1982-1997. He worked in the presidium for a total of 12 years, between 1982-1985 he held the position of 3<sup>rd</sup> vice-president and between 1985-1994 the position of president. ERA will miss him greatly.



### Sicily Trek Festival

The historic first international walk on the E1 has taken place! Over 760 walkers from France, Portugal, Serbia, Denmark, Malta, Italy and Hong Kong (China), with special guest Louise Brunborg-Næss, representing DNT (Norway), walked on E1 and other paths that allowed them to meet on the Eastern side of Sicily, a precious mix of natural environment, culture and traditions. The highlight of the event took place on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May, when all the participants reached Porto Palo di Capo Passero on foot, the most southern point of the E1. An exciting event which invites all to the next festival on the European paths.



### E1/R1 Photo Award

The winners of the international E1/R1 Photo Award were honoured during this year's German Walking Day (Deutscher Wandertag). The European long-distance routes E1 (E-path) and R1 (cycle path) combined are more than 11,000 kilometers long, running through 16 countries and cross near Detmold (D). Finding the most beautiful views along these paths of superlatives - that was the objective of the E1/R1 Photo Award. The competition which comprises a professional and an amateur contest was initiated by WALK, the Competence Centre for Hiking at the foot of the Arminius Monument, with the support of Deutscher Wanderverband and ERA. Amateur and professional photographers were able to submit their photos in four categories: Culture and Landscape, Man and Nature, Heaven and Earth, and Animals and Nature. The award ceremony and the opening of the exhibition took place on the 15<sup>th</sup> August in Detmold.

Winners, Nominees and Shortlistees for the Amateur and Pro Awards can be seen here:

<https://e1r1-photoaward.eu/amateur-award/gewinner/>

<https://e1r1-photoaward.eu/profi-award/gewinner/>

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Gran Canaria Walking Festival

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