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# Greenways in Latvia

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# Europe and Latvia

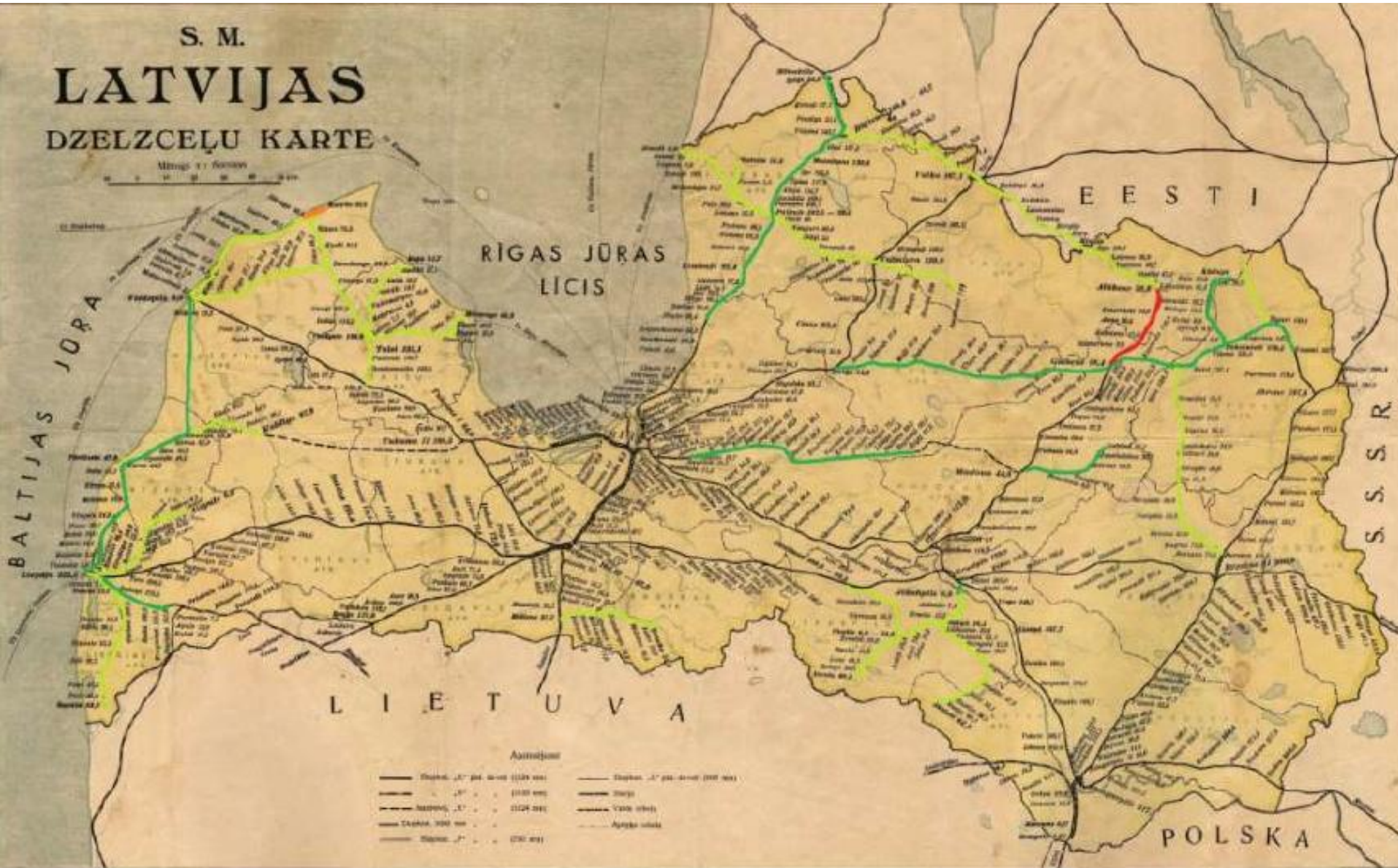


# Vidzeme Tourism Association

- Non-governmental organization
- Founded in 1997
- To develop and promote the Tourism in Northern Latvia region
- Members:
  - 34 local municipalities
  - 57 tourism businesses
  - Vidzeme University College



# Railways in Latvia - 1939

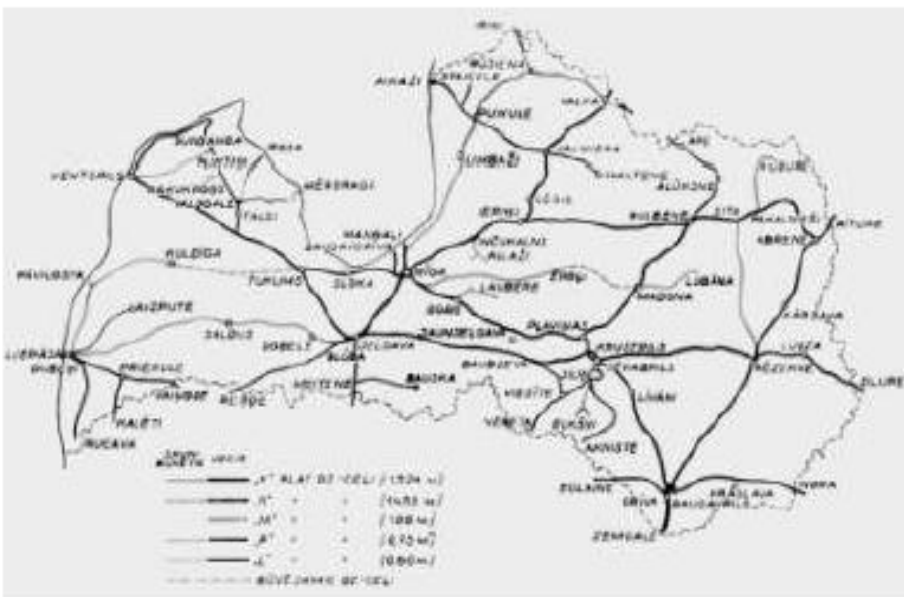


# LATVIA

## Railway network

1940

2014



# LATVIA

## Statistics - past

- From 1860 till 1940 totally built 3223 km of railway lines,
- 30 % of them - narrow gauge (less than 1435 mm gauge),
- 50 % of them – secondary railways (Nebenbahn).

# LATVIA

## Statistics - present

- Total length of operational railway lines today is 1806 km,
- During last 50 years we theoretically lost 1417 km of railways (all potential greenways),









Keipenes cinema station – only preserved section of rails



Cinema museum in the former railway station







## Foundation of Latvian Greenways Association on May 20, 2014



[www.greenways.lv](http://www.greenways.lv)



KANGARI



First pilot project in North Latvia:  
7km Reconstruction of Greenway  
in 2014

# Reconstructed **Greenway** Limbaži-Katvari



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# Opening of the reconstructed greenway Limbazi-Katvari, September 2014



# Reconstructed **Greenway** Limbaži-Katvari





# Reconstructed **Greenway** Limbaži-Katvari

Total length: 7km

- Reconstruction: >5km (removing sleepers, trees, brushes, improvement of surface)
- Setting-up signs
- Installing barriers to avoid motorised traffic (except near the lake)
- Promotion of the Greenway (maps)
- Future plans: signposting, additional improvements for safety, connection with asphalt road in Limbaži
- Total cost of reconstruction: ~10 300 EUR / EU funding and municipality co-funding



# Greenways in Latvia – typical situation





# First Latvian Greenways/EuroVelo/Signposted Cycling Routes Map



**BALTIC CYCLING**

Latvian Greenways/EuroVelo/Signposted Cycling Routes

[www.baltic-cycling.com](http://www.baltic-cycling.com)



**LATVIA BIKE MAP**



**13**

**Euro Velo 13 – Iron Curtain Trail**

The EuroVelo 13 – Iron Curtain Trail is a unique cycling route that starts at the North European town Silkeborg in Norway and ends up at the border of Bulgaria/Turkey near the Black Sea in Istanbul. The whole route is 10 400 km long. It crosses 30 countries thus marking the vertical border between the East and West of Europe that separated during the Cold War for more than a half a century. The route presents both unique historical sites and beautiful views from the sea.

The route in Latvia covers 322 km. It offers various surface and intensity roads with a unique opportunity for cycling along the coast for about 50 km. The cycling route is flat and without steep inclines. The cycling infrastructure is well-developed, around coastal towns. About 100 km of cycling and pedestrian roads are available. When crossing sections of North-Western European states and regions, Estonia and Siberia National Security Park, Riga Nature Park and Gulbene Reserve, one can appreciate 100 km of sand and green roads.

The Iron Curtain Trail in Latvia that starts from Estonia border in Akulē and finishes at Valsla in Lithuania, is rich with military heritage and other local attractions along whole its length. It is possible to continue the route southwards to Lithuania and Estonia as the border crossing makes no problems and appropriate cycling route markings signs have been placed there.

As the area consists of Northern Latvia, the best infrastructure to explore the area is by the route South: Ainaži, Akulē, Balvi, Ārīņi borders, of particular interest – the only private Nike Missile Museum in the Baltic. Latvia with unique exhibits in Jaundubēle. The EuroVelo 13 route in Northern Latvia is complete all day long.



Rīga is the biggest capital city in the Baltic States, as well as an important regional hub with an international airport, port, rail and bus networks. The Riga Old Town is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. The city is rich with military heritage sites, such as the Museum of Occupation of Latvia, the Museum of Occupation of 1991, GaušgrāvisFortification, Brigades Memorial, the Soldiers' mother structure.

In Gaušgrāvis, the Western part of Latvia, there is a unique village and local festival, but in order to restore its historical, has not preserved. Here the cyclists can also visit the museum of former Soviet military base Jelgavā where colorful architecture and that was special for soviet espionage during the Soviet times and is the 4th largest building of its kind worldwide is located nearby.

Ventspils and Līvāni are coastal cities, offering convenient bus connections with Germany and Scandinavia. Both cities have well-developed infrastructure. Līvāni has the most attractive military heritage park in Latvia with historical fortresses on the city of special interest in Latvia area, where tourists can spend a night in a real Soviet-time prison and enjoy other unique activities. The EuroVelo 13 route in Western Latvia is well signposted.

For some sections of the cycling route, particularly from Alūksne to Rīga and from Līvāni to Akulē, the route is marked with various traffic signs and roadwork signs. In order to use public transport services instead, roads with low traffic intensity should be chosen for about 140 km. Reconstruction of various parts of the route has ongoing. It is planned to complete the reconstruction until 2020 and develop 140 km of cycling infrastructure.

**1** Latvian Tourism Association,  
Latvian Cycling Federation in Latvia  
[www.rlv.gov.lv](http://www.rlv.gov.lv)  
[www.lvtravel.com](http://www.lvtravel.com), [www.lvtravel.com](http://www.lvtravel.com)  
Complete Latvian route map  
[www.lvtravel.com](http://www.lvtravel.com)

More detailed information about Latvia is available in National, Regional and Local cycling maps is available in Estonian, Russian and other languages and can be found at  
[www.lvtravel.com/lvmap](http://www.lvtravel.com/lvmap)

**MAP LEGEND**

- EuroVelo 13 – Iron Curtain Trail
- National roads
- Regional roads
- Greenways
- Local roads
- Local roads in Latvia's Eastern Latvia region
- Digital Mountain Bike routes
- Congress place on Greenways section

# First Latvian Greenways/EuroVelo/Signposted Cycling Routes

## GREENWAYS

These public Greenways include walking, cycling and horse-riding paths. They are developed and managed by the local municipalities. Some are already open, while others are under construction. The municipalities are responsible for the development and maintenance of the Greenways. Some are already open, while others are under construction. The municipalities are responsible for the development and maintenance of the Greenways.

## Vidzeme (Northern Latvia) Region

**1. Limbaži – Izaķu Kalns**  
A Greenway from Izaķu Kalns near Lake Salaca to the first and second and, generally speaking, most of the Lake Salaca National Park. It leads from the Salaca river to the Lake Salaca National Park. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**2. Matīši – Gailbene**  
An ancient Greenway along the Matīši river. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**3. Rīga – Ērgļi**  
A Greenway from Rīga to Ērgļi. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**4. Rīga – Mazāziņa**  
A Greenway from Rīga to Mazāziņa. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**5. Kurzeme (Western Latvia) Region**  
A Greenway from Kurzeme to Kurzeme. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**6. Kurzeme (Western Latvia) Region**  
A Greenway from Kurzeme to Kurzeme. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**7. Kurzeme (Western Latvia) Region**  
A Greenway from Kurzeme to Kurzeme. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**8. Kurzeme (Western Latvia) Region**  
A Greenway from Kurzeme to Kurzeme. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

## LOCAL CYCLING ROUTES - LOCAL CYCLING ROUTES - LOCAL CYCLING ROUTES - LOCAL CYCLING ROUTES - LOCAL CYCLING ROUTES

**1. Vidzeme (Northern Latvia) Region**  
**The Big and Diverse Circle on both sides of river Gauja: Balnājs – Līgiste – Balnājs**  
A circular cycling route around the Gauja river. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**2. Vidzeme (Northern Latvia) Region**  
**The Castle and Manor motif: Limbaži – Skulte – Saultkrasti – Birģi – Igaile – Limbaži**  
A cycling route connecting historical sites. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**3. Vidzeme (Northern Latvia) Region**  
**Around Lake Burtnieki**  
A cycling route around Lake Burtnieki. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**4. Vidzeme (Northern Latvia) Region**  
**The pearls of Salaspils**  
A cycling route through Salaspils. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**5. Vidzeme (Northern Latvia) Region**  
**Castles in the vicinity of Rauska**  
A cycling route around Rauska. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**6. Vidzeme (Northern Latvia) Region**  
**The Rich Zengāle**  
A cycling route through Zengāle. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**7. Vidzeme (Northern Latvia) Region**  
**The Daugava Valley**  
A cycling route along the Daugava river. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**8. Vidzeme (Northern Latvia) Region**  
**The small towns of Selenia**  
A cycling route through Selenia. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**9. Vidzeme (Northern Latvia) Region**  
**Explore Ozulskis and its surroundings!**  
A cycling route around Ozulskis. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**10. Kurzeme (Western Latvia) Region**  
**The Nature values in Māripa County**  
A cycling route through Māripa County. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**11. Kurzeme (Western Latvia) Region**  
**Cycle around lakes of Sillene**  
A cycling route around lakes in Sillene. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**12. Kurzeme (Western Latvia) Region**  
**Sigulda Municipality Mountain Bike Cycling Route N 1**  
A mountain bike route in Sigulda. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**13. Kurzeme (Western Latvia) Region**  
**Sigulda Municipality Mountain Bike Cycling Route N 5**  
A mountain bike route in Sigulda. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**14. Kurzeme (Western Latvia) Region**  
**Widely of Auca**  
A cycling route through Auca. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**15. Kurzeme (Western Latvia) Region**  
**Around Lake Zibars**  
A cycling route around Lake Zibars. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**16. Kurzeme (Western Latvia) Region**  
**Manors and Landscapes of Zengāle**  
A cycling route through Zengāle. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**17. Kurzeme (Western Latvia) Region**  
**Explore Ozulskis and its surroundings!**  
A cycling route around Ozulskis. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**18. Kurzeme (Western Latvia) Region**  
**By the Lavender Fields**  
A cycling route through lavender fields. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

## Kurzeme (Western Latvia) Region

**19. Kurzeme (Western Latvia) Region**  
**Cycling Route of the Rolling Countryside of Talsi**  
A cycling route through Talsi. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**20. Kurzeme (Western Latvia) Region**  
**Cycling Route of the Ancient Valley of the River Abava**  
A cycling route along the Abava river. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**21. Kurzeme (Western Latvia) Region**  
**Round Lake Usmas**  
A cycling route around Lake Usmas. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**22. Kurzeme (Western Latvia) Region**  
**River Venta Valley Cycling Route**  
A cycling route along the Venta river. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**23. Kurzeme (Western Latvia) Region**  
**Manors and Castles at the Border**  
A cycling route through border manors. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**24. Kurzeme (Western Latvia) Region**  
**Alpūzte – Kazdanga – Kalvene – Alpūzte**  
A cycling route through Alpūzte. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**25. Kurzeme (Western Latvia) Region**  
**Pavilots' Sea Route**  
A cycling route through Pavilots. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**26. Kurzeme (Western Latvia) Region**  
**Latgale (Eastern Latvia) Region**  
A cycling route through Latgale. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**27. Kurzeme (Western Latvia) Region**  
**Latgale (Eastern Latvia) Region**  
A cycling route through Latgale. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

## Latgale (Eastern Latvia) Region

**28. Latgale (Eastern Latvia) Region**  
**Around Lake Lubāns**  
A cycling route around Lake Lubāns. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**29. Latgale (Eastern Latvia) Region**  
**Around Lake Rāzma**  
A cycling route around Lake Rāzma. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**30. Latgale (Eastern Latvia) Region**  
**The Lake Circuit – Cycling route in Aglona Municipality**  
A cycling route around Aglona. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**31. Latgale (Eastern Latvia) Region**  
**The Circuit of Daugava from Krāslava till Rāsele**  
A cycling route along the Daugava river. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**32. Latgale (Eastern Latvia) Region**  
**Tour de Lat'Est**  
A cycling route through Latgale. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**33. Latgale (Eastern Latvia) Region**  
**The National Routes (Salaca – Gauja – Daugava) Route**  
A cycling route through Salaca, Gauja, and Daugava. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**34. Latgale (Eastern Latvia) Region**  
**The National Routes (Salaca – Gauja – Daugava) Route**  
A cycling route through Salaca, Gauja, and Daugava. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**35. Latgale (Eastern Latvia) Region**  
**Alnāži – Aļoja – Matīši – Burtnieki – Rājona – Kanki-Nuša (Estonsia)**  
A cycling route through Alnāži, Aļoja, Matīši, Burtnieki, Rājona, and Kanki-Nuša. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

**36. Latgale (Eastern Latvia) Region**  
**Alnāži – Aļoja – Matīši – Burtnieki – Rājona – Kanki-Nuša (Estonsia)**  
A cycling route through Alnāži, Aļoja, Matīši, Burtnieki, Rājona, and Kanki-Nuša. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route. It is a 10 km long route.

# Development of the Greenways in Latvia: Future plans/goals

- **Ownership issues:** the land below former railways still owned by the National railway company, better situation where it belongs to the local Municipality (it can be further improved/maintained)
- **Creating pilot project of a GW section:** It is essential to show a best practice to other municipalities, integrate municipal buildings with former railway buildings (e.g. a new TIC)

# Development of the Greenways in Latvia: Future plans/goals

- **Attracting EU funding:** Latvia/Estonia, Latvia/Estonia/Russia, Central Baltic, Baltic Sea Programmes, DG Grow Projects
- **Raising awareness:** Very important to inform people and decision-makers (municipality authorities etc.)
- **Marketing:** Printed materials (maps), integrate GW in local tourism routes, tourism trade fairs, promotional events

# Greenways Outdoor in Latvia

- Awareness raising campaigns/meetings/site visits-tours
- Promotion of the Greenways in Latvia
- Active communication with local municipalities on a daily basis
- Promotion of the Greenways concept at all levels (Ministries, Municipalities, international events, informal meetings)

# Thank you for your attention!

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