



**Latvian Orienteering Federation  
&  
Orienteering Club "Ziemeļkurzeme"**

**Proposal to host  
15<sup>th</sup> World Rogaining Championships in 2017  
(15<sup>th</sup> WRC2017)**

**August 18-19, 2017**

**Rāzna National Park, Latvia**

### 1. Name of the proposing Subject, website link

Latvian Orienteering Federation (LOF), LOF Rogaining Committee, Orienteering Club "Ziemeļkurzeme"

[www.rogaining.lv](http://www.rogaining.lv); [www.lof.lv](http://www.lof.lv); [www.okzk.lv](http://www.okzk.lv)

### 2. Proposed date of the event

Friday, August 18- Saturday August 19, 2017

Proposed dates were selected as the best ones to hold the event by accurate evaluating of the climate and weather conditions, daylight/nighttime duration ratio, local nature protection and environmental limitations and requirements, see chapters 9 and 10.

### 3. Planned location

Rāzna National Park, Latgale region, E part of Latvia.

The 15th WRC2017 event location is situated ~ 275 km to E from capital Riga, ~40 km SE of Rēzekne, ~ 100 km NE of the second largest city of Latvia – Daugavpils. Link to location of Rāzna National Park, Google maps: <http://goo.gl/ondRN>

*Event location (on the overview map of Baltics):*



Competition area (~250 km<sup>2</sup>) is located in the central and southern part of the Rāzna National Park. Selected competition area has been never used for rogaining activities before. Planned area provides interesting, challenging and enjoyable countryside and terrain for competition. There are no big mountains in the area, but a lot of small and medium sized hills. There are no big swamps, just some small in lower places. There are no big rivers, but a lot of small streams. Plenty of lakes in the area, in the company of biggest by volume lake in Latvia – Rāznas and the richest lake by islands in Latvia – Ežezers, make this area special. Scenery both for the mind and both for the eyes is guaranteed all around. That's all for exam in navigation skills what will be most important for success!

Hosting of the 15<sup>th</sup> WRC2017 will contribute to growth, expansion and recognition of rogaining in the Latgale region.

*Proposed competition area (red border - on the basis of resized 1:200 000 scale regional road map):*



#### 4.-5. Organizers' experience in participation in rogaines and organizing rogaines.

LOF, LOF Rogaining Committee and OK "Ziemeļkurzeme" would like to announce very experienced and well balanced rogaïne organizers' team for hosting the 15th WRC2017 event. Organizational team created for preparation, promoting, managing and hosting of the 15th WRC2017 consists of experienced and skilled rogainers who have solid, proven track both of participation and podium-winning experience in dozens of top-level international rogaines as well as hands-on experience in organizing a number of regional and international rogaïne competitions, including 2 European Rogaining Championships (ERC) (2007, 2011). Most of organizational team members have been dedicated orienteering and compass sports (incl. adventure sports) enthusiasts and contributors for decades. Core members of organizational team made significant expansion of rogaïne culture in region, raising quality, recognition and participation level.

**Mārtiņš Vimba**, selected for his management skills as the Event Director of the 15th WRC2017, has participated as rogaïne in 4 ERCs and 1 World Rogaining Championships (WRC). He has participated and won the podium positions in a number of nationwide and regional rogaines. He has got experience in rogaines of different level abroad.

Mārtiņš participated as team member in organizational team of ERC 2011. He has lead organizational teams of several international and nationwide orienteering events, as well as organized local rogaining and adventure sports events on his own. In his professional career he is CEO of leading mapping publishing and GIS company in Baltics (Jana Seta Map Publishers), previously being involved in forestry, logistics, GIS and optimization IT systems implementation, organizational change development projects as senior project manager dealing with international partners and stakeholders in the Baltics' leading forestry company. He was Latvian Orienteering Federation Board member (2011-2014), and was elected also as LOF Vice-President (2011-2013).

**Raimonds Lapiņš** - Course Setter and Mapper of the 15<sup>th</sup> WRC2017 has participated in 4 WRCs and 5 ERCs. Raimonds with his teammates has become 2 times XO World Champion and gold medalist in WRCs (2002, 2006) and XV European Champion (2011). He has participated in dozens of different international rogaïne, orienteering and adventure race events since early 2000.

Raimonds together with Guntars Mankus was the first who started and expanded rogaining sport incl. organizing and mapping for rogaine in Latvia back in 2003. He was event co-director, course setter and mapper of the 4<sup>th</sup> ERC in Smiltene, Latvia (2007). From 2004 till 2014 he organized 7 Latvian Championships (LRCs) in various positions such as event director, mapper, course setter and vetter. Raimonds' experience in organizing of different rogaïne events includes also several local rogaïnes and training events.

**Valters Kaminskis** - Course Vetter of the 15<sup>th</sup> WRC2017 made his career starting in 2006. Since that he have completed 14 24hours rogaïnes. Several times obtained medals in European championships: 6 time European champion and gold medalist (XO in 2012, 2013 and XV in 2010, 2012, 2013, and 2014), once silver medalist (MO in 2008), twice won ERC bronze positions (XO in 2010 and 2014). He also became World champion in 2013 in XV group and won 3 WRC bronze medals (XO in 2008, 2010 and XV in 2010). 2 times won LRCs MO group (2009, 2012). Besides rogaïning medal winning events Valters has participated in tens of different range regional and international rogaïnes.

He was event director and course setter of the 8<sup>th</sup> ERC in Rauna, Latvia (2011) and two 12 hours rogaïning competitions – *Raunas rogaïnings* (2013) and *Cēsu rogaïnings* (2013). His course setting job and quality of course made for the 8<sup>th</sup> ERC event was highly rated and honored in IRC's newsletter (L.Leppik, No. 170, 2011) afterwards: *"The course setter, WRC bronze medalist in XO category, Valters Kaminskis placed 79 controls, creating several different route options as evidenced by eventual route choices of teams. (...) As a skillful rogaïner himself, Valters very accurately predicted the speed of top teams and the winning score was 95% of the maximum."*

**Aivars Žogla** - Event Co-Director of the 15<sup>th</sup> WRC2017, has participated as rogaïner in several 24h rogaïnes, ERCs and WRC. As rogaïner he has also experience of dozens of 4-12h rogaïne events.

Aivars has organized various rogaïning events since 2005. He participated in organizing of several LRCs and was the organizational team leader of the 8<sup>th</sup> ERC in 2011. He led organizational teams, did mapping work for more than 5 well known 12h international rogaïnes. He is one of the most experienced rogaïning event coordinators in Latvia and has developed multiple competences of map-making, IT, web-site management, communication and event management.

**Guntars Mankus**-Timing and Result Services team leader of the 15<sup>th</sup> WRC2017 has participated in 4 WRCs and 2 ERCs, as well as in a number of other international rogaïne events. Being an active and world class rogaïner, Guntars has won 2 WRC gold medals (XO in 2002, 2006), bronze position of WRC (XO, 2004) and became 2 times ERC gold medalist (XO in 2005, XV in 2011). Guntars has been taking part for decades in endurance, orienteering, and adventure sports and now is Trail-O world class athlete.

He has participated in organization of the 4<sup>th</sup> ERC (2007) as event director, course setter and result services provider. Also he played significant role in organization of several local rogaïning events, including 4 LRCs (2003-2007). Guntars has been working with timing and result services for orienteering events (incl. World Cup and European Championship events), adventure races and in lately also rogaïnes for more than 10 years. He has extensive experience with SPORTIdent punching system and having direct contacts with SPORTIdent Germany.

**Ilze Lapiņa**- Chief Secretary of the 15<sup>th</sup> WRC2017 has over 30 years orienteering sports experience and has been participating in rogaïning events for more than 8 years. Ilze participated in 4 WRCs and in 7 ERCs. She won the 3<sup>rd</sup> place of WRC in XV class (2012). Also

she became 2 times European Champion in class WO (2006, 2009) as well as won European title in class WV (2009), 3 European silver medals in XV class (2012, 2013, 2014) and bronze (XO) in ERC, 2013.

Ilze represents orienteering club "Ziemeļkurzeme", she participated in role of chief secretary of several foot-o events and participated in organizational teams of the 4<sup>th</sup> ERC and the 8<sup>th</sup> ERC held in Latvia.

Besides rogaining events, the 15<sup>th</sup> WRC2017 organizational team members had participated also in organizing of several international foot-O, trail-O, ski-O and adventure sports events and competitions such as European Ski Orienteering Championships (2013), Baltic Junior Cup (2012), European Orienteering Championships and World Cup event (2008), European Trail Orienteering Championships (2008), etc.

## **6. Future planned events**

Prior the 15<sup>th</sup> WRC2017 there are several rogaines available for competition and training in the region. Members of proposed organizational team will be involved in organization of following rogaining events in Latvia:

- 1) the 9<sup>th</sup> Latvian Rogaining Championships (24h), near Lejasciems, July12-13, 2014;
- 2) traditional (12h/6h) spring rogaining, May, 2015, 2016, 2017\*
- 3) traditional (4h/8h) autumn rogaining near Riga, September 2014, 2015, 2016
- 4) Latvian Rogaining Championships (24h), summer 2015, 2016\*
- 5) There are different other rogaining events planned in the region (Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia) over next 2 years.

*\* Exact dates and location to be updated.*

## **7. Terrain and map description**

**Terrain.** Competition area (~250 km<sup>2</sup>) is located in the central and south part of Rāzna National Park, Latgale upland. Terrain is mainly hilly; the heights are varying starting from 160 m AMSL and reaching up to 289 m AMSL with the highest points - Lielais Liepukalns and Dzerkaļu kalns. Differences in absolute height values play the major role of forming both technically and physically challenging terrain, as the vertical amplitude and relative height of relief reaches over 125 m in the area. This makes the terrain rich of steep slopes and deep depressions: some of Latvia's steepest hill slopes are found particularly in Rāzna National Park, exceeding even 85-90m.

The territory's relief is made up of primary massif hills, moraine hills, flat-top hills as well as medium size and height hills and is full of evidences from last glacial and post-glacial period formations. The landscape of the territory is dominated by big hills among which there are gullies or lowlands with fragmented small hills. The more spacious lowlands and glacial depressions are filled with lakes, the biggest ones being Rāzna (57810 ha) and Ežezers (1065 ha). More than 70 relatively smaller lakes and ponds are listed in the proposed competition area, really representing the essence of Latgale region, often called as "the land of blue lakes".

The terrain is partly covered by coniferous and mixed forests with all type of runability from very good to overgrown and human non-touched. Typical mosaic landscape of Rāzna National Park is represented with forest areas of different ages, partly by timber felling sites, partly by open fields and meadows and scattered typical farmsteads and villages. There is a semi-developed network of regional, local and forest roads, but some areas are quite wild, without any roads. Off-road areas may be very wild, low areas around ditches and lakes often are flooded due to beaver activity.



The Rāzna National Park was created in 2007 to protect landscape, culture and historical values. The Park covers area of 596km<sup>2</sup> and is known widely for its rolling landscape and many lakes, mixture of traditional and modern lifestyle and hospitality of local people. Rāzna National Park and proposed competition area impersonates the natural and historical values of Latgale region - with its own strong traditions, unique history influenced by neighboring countries for centuries. Area is different from the rest of Latvia that it sometimes feels like another country. Latgalians have strong traditions in pottery and baking as well as numerous religions - Catholics, Lutherans, Orthodox and Old Believers live side by side.

Terrain full of lakes with clear blue water, typical for Latgale region, a number of hilltops in combination with cultural and historical legacy, makes this area naturally scenic and unique environment for holding the 15<sup>th</sup> WRC2017.

**Map.** Scale 1:35 000, contour interval 5 meters. The map of the 15<sup>th</sup> WRC2017 competition will be specially prepared by using wide range of source and ground materials such as military and topographic maps of large scale, aerial and satellite imagery, orthophoto maps, actual information from forestry and local government institutions, etc. Airborne LiDAR laser scan mapping source materials will be used where available. In addition - significant amount of mapping field work will be carried out in the competition area prior to the completion of the map in order to provide accurate and up to date map information.

## **8. Description of Punching system and Result computing Software**

The SPORTIdent (SI) electronic punching system will be in use. Each team member shall wear one SI card (version 6, 10, 11), which will be attached to competitor with a non-removable wristband. SI-cards (version 6) will be available for rent from organizers.

SPORTIdent tools together with AdEx v3.0 (or newer) software will be used for timing and result computing. Software has been successfully used for participant and result computing in a number of major adventure sports and rogaining competitions in Latvia for more than 5 years (incl. the 4<sup>th</sup> ERC, 2007). AdEx software has been constantly improved by developers to include additional features and to support latest SI capabilities and versions. Links to samples of results and splits (incl. those from the 4<sup>th</sup> ERC) are available in chapter 14.

## **9. Weather and climate at the proposed term of the race**

August in Latvia and Rāzna National Park is moderate warm summer month. It is the second warmest month of the year, with average temperature in between 16-17°C. During the second half of August it often rains, and weather is characterized by thunderstorms (observed in average 3-5 days per month, maximum up to 10 days per month). Due to thunderstorms weather can be very variable and changes rapidly. Thunderstorms are sometimes accompanied by strong gusts of wind and heavy showers. Cloud cover during the August is 87% (mostly cloudy). The average probability that some form of precipitation will be observed in a given day is 50%, mostly in form of light rain, thunderstorms and moderate rain. Historical average monthly rainfall in race area varies in between 70-95 mm. However, rainfall and some quite cool August evenings alternate with a warm and sunny weather, when the average daytime temperature can rise even above 20°-22°C. The lowest average daily temperatures in August can decrease to 10-14°C. Some weather and temperature extremes as high as 36°C and as low as 5°C have been observed over last 100 years in August. Typically after hot month of July and following warm August, moderate warm water in dozens of lakes and rivers is suitable for swimming till the first days of September.

## **10. Sun and moon during the event**

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Friday,         | Saturday,       |
| August 18, 2017 | August 19, 2017 |

|                        |       |       |
|------------------------|-------|-------|
| Civil twilight starts: |       | 05:15 |
| Sunrise:               |       | 05:59 |
| Sunset:                | 20:56 |       |
| Civil twilight ends:   | 21:40 |       |
| Moonrise*:             | 01:45 | 02:47 |
| Moonset:               | 18:44 | 19:33 |

*\*new moon= August 21*

## 11. Transportation and Accommodation info

**Transportation:** the Event centre can be reached by car (own, rental) from Rīga International Airport (connected to more than 80 direct flight destinations) and ferry terminal as well as from the neighboring countries. The driving distance from Riga International Airport to the Event centre is ~295km and it takes ~4-5 h of time to get there by car. Event centre will be located in ~ 40 km from the regional capital - city of Rēzekne and it takes ~35 min to get there by car or bus.

There are several options for getting to Rēzekne by public transport. Bus connection Rīga-Rēzekne is operated several times per day. Depending on route selected, it takes 4-5h from Rīga to Rēzekne. Twice per day Rēzekne is accessible from Rīga Central train terminal also by train and it takes ~4h. Rēzekne is a major stop also in a number of international bus and train connections: Rīga-Moscow and Rīga-St. Petersburg, so making the competition area easy accessible for rogainers from Russia.

In addition to Rīga International Airport flight connections; there are other international airports in region to consider: Kaunas (Lithuania), Vilnius (Lithuania) and Tartu (Estonia) all three in ~300 km and ~3,5h driving distance as well as Tallinn (Estonia) in ~ 460 km and 5,5h driving distance.

For the convenience of competitors and accompanying persons there will be special shuttle buses provided from Rīga and Rēzekne to the Event centre. Shuttle bus timetables and pre-booking options will be presented on the 15<sup>th</sup> WRC2017 website and bulletins.

There will be car, bus, bicycle and motorcycle and caravan parking areas available in the Event centre.

**Accommodation:** local tourism information bureau offers wide range of over 50 different level holiday cottages, country houses, hotels, hostels and simple accommodation options within closest 40 km around Event centre. There are 4 hotels in regional capital Rēzekne with capacity over 200 visitors. Local tent places will be available directly in the Event centre. Information about accommodation opportunities will be available on the 15<sup>th</sup> WRC2017 website and bulletins.

## 12. Names of the Key Organizers (Event director, Course Setter, Course Vetter)

Event Director: Mārtiņš Vimba  
 Course Setter, Mapper: Raimonds Lapiņš  
 Course Vetter: Valters Kaminskis  
 Timing and Results: Guntars Mankus  
 Event Co-Director: Aivars Žogla  
 Chief Secretary: Ilze Lapiņa

Experience track of Course Vetter Valters Kaminskis is fully in compliance with IRF Rules (Rule D3). He is skillful rogaier and has participated (and also won a number of medals) in major World and European Rogaining Championships as well as he played major role (event director and course setter) in organizational team of the 8<sup>th</sup> ERC (see detailed description in chapter 4-5).

More than 20 volunteers from local municipalities as well as from orienteering clubs of Latvia will be involved in supporting and organizational activities of the 15<sup>th</sup> WRC 2017.

**13. Statement that the race will be run in accordance with the IRF Rules**

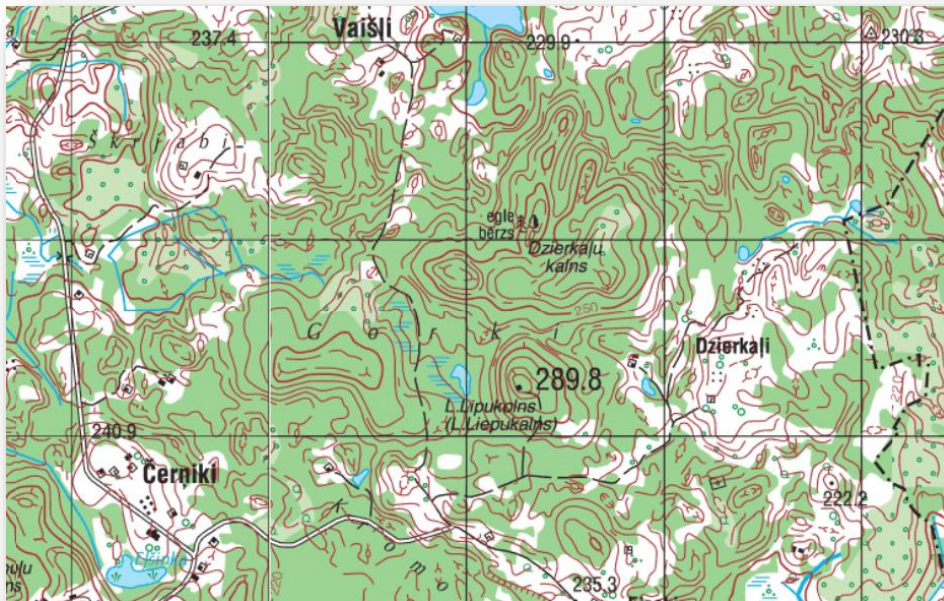
Latvian Orienteering Federation (LOF), its Rogaining Committee, OK "Ziemeļkurzeme" and established organizing team by submitting this proposal to host the 15<sup>th</sup> World Rogaining Championships 2017 in Rāzna National Park, Latvia, confirm that the event will be run in accordance with the IRF Rules.

By submitting this proposal team of organizers ensures and proves the competence, ability and skills of the secure, experienced organizational group that has successfully run major 24 hour rogaines and is fully confident on providing the best efforts to run successful, fair competition worthy of world championships in a challenging terrain and according to high organizational standards.



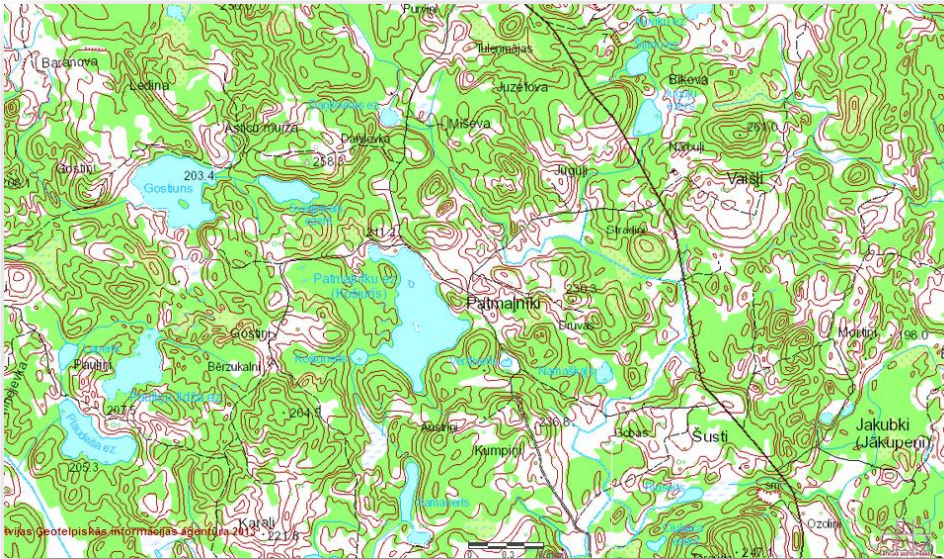
## 14. Additional details

**Map samples to describe the terrain, relief of proposed competition area (on the basis of resized 1:50 000 topographic maps):**

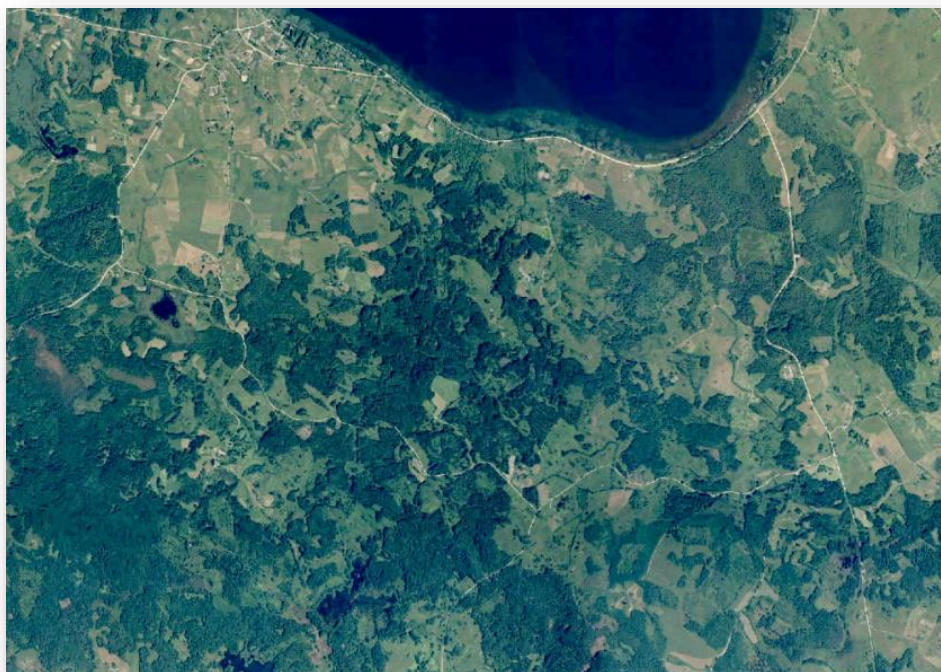




**Map samples to describe in detail the terrain, relief of proposed competition area (on the basis of resized 1:20 000 topographic maps):**



Ortophoto map sample to describe the landscape structure and terrain of proposed competition area (resized):



Links to samples of results and splits (incl. those from the 4<sup>th</sup> ERC) created with **AdEx** software:

- Results of the 4<sup>th</sup> ERC (2007):  
<http://www.rogaining.org/attachments/article/227/ERC2007%20results.pdf>  
[http://www.okzk.lv/rogaining\\_lv/erc2007/overall\\_res.htm](http://www.okzk.lv/rogaining_lv/erc2007/overall_res.htm)
- Samples of splits from adventure races (2012)  
[http://xrace.lv/files/rezultati/2012\\_zakumuiza\\_xrace\\_v.xls](http://xrace.lv/files/rezultati/2012_zakumuiza_xrace_v.xls)  
[http://xrace.lv/files/rezultati/2012\\_zakumuiza\\_xrace\\_v.pdf](http://xrace.lv/files/rezultati/2012_zakumuiza_xrace_v.pdf)

**Website:** experienced web-site designer and service provider (Andris Leja) will be involved in organizational team, to provide special, easy to use, convenient and up-to date maintained web site for the 15<sup>th</sup> WRC2017. Functionality and design will be created by following the best practices and experience gained in developing and maintaining web sites for the 8<sup>th</sup> ERC <http://erc2011.rogaining.lv/> and ESOC 2013 <http://www.esoc2013.lv/>.

**Photos from area:** a lot of geographically located photos from the proposed competition area can be found on Google Maps and Panoramio under <http://goo.gl/KzZYf>

Google Maps *Streetview* imagery is available for major regional and local roads crossing the proposed event area.

**Additional information about Rāzna National Park:**

<http://www.latvia.travel/en/sight/razna-national-park>  
<http://razna.dau.lv/index.php?lang=en>  
[http://www.celotajs.lv/cont/tour/tours/RaznasNP\\_marsruti\\_en.html](http://www.celotajs.lv/cont/tour/tours/RaznasNP_marsruti_en.html)

**Contact details:**

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## **WELCOME TO THE 15<sup>th</sup> WORLD ROGAINING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN LATVIA!**

Sincerely,

Mārtiņš Vimba  
Event Director