

LEADER approach in Latvia's National Parks

Lahemaa National Park

LAG Arenduskoda area, Estonia

August 5th, 2025

Opening event of transnational cooperation project

„Growth of rural entrepreneurship & empowerment in national parks /
protection areas regions“ (GREENPARK)

Agnese Balandiņa, Ķemeri National park

Latvian Project partners (4 LAGs = 4 National Parks)



Ziemeļkurzemes
Biznesa Asociācija



LAUKIEM UN JŪRAI

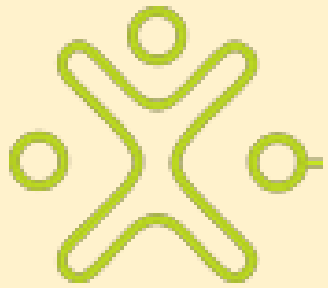


Cēsu
rajona lauku
partnerība



RĒZEKNES NOVADA
PARTNERĪBA





PARTNERSHIP OF RĒZEKNE DISTRICT

Rēzeknes novada lauku partnerība



2809 km²



28 parishes & 1 town



32 % forests



8 % lakes and rivers



29014 population

info@rezeknespartneriba.lv
www.rezeknespartneriba.lv





Rāzna National Park



NATURA
2000

- ❖ The youngest and the second largest NP in Latvia:
 - ❖ founded in 2007,
 - ❖ 59 615 hectares
- ❖ RNP lakes:
 - ❖ Rāzna – the laggest in terms of water volume in Latvia
 - ❖ Ežezers – the richest islands lake in Latvia
- ❖ Cultural and historical heritage: pottery crafts, culinary heritage etc.



<https://www.daba.gov.lv/en/razna-national-park>

TASTE



FEEL



ENJOY



Lūznava Manor



18,000 visitors annually
Art Nouveau architecture
A magnet for visitors



www.luznavasmuiza.lv

LAG CĒSIS DISTRICT RURAL PARTNERSHIP

CĒSU RAJONA LAUKU PARTNERĪBA (CRLP)



21 parishes & 2 town in 2 municipalities





Gauja National Park



NATURA
2000

The second EUROPARC in Latvia - sustainable tourism certification 2025

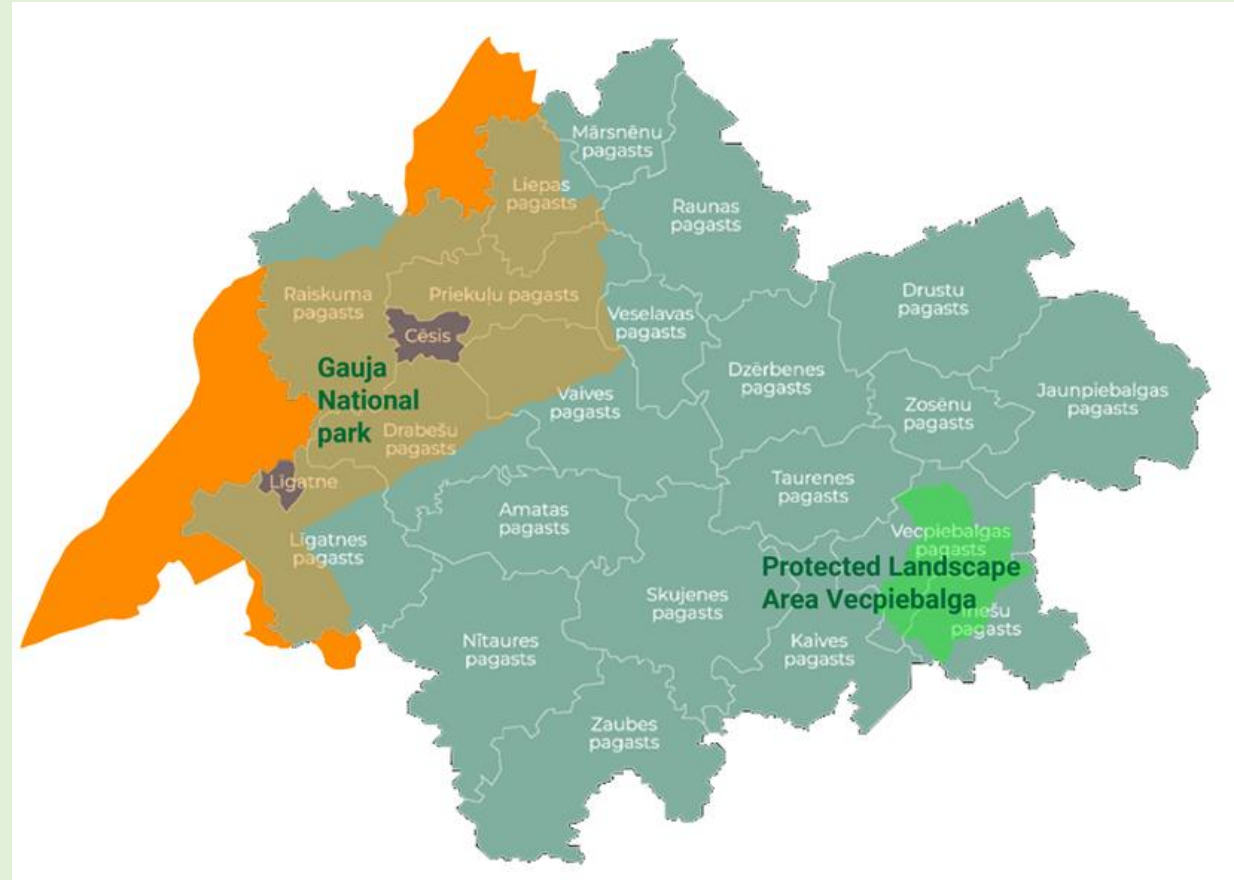
- ❖ The oldest and the largest NP in Latvia:
 - ❖ founded in 1973,
 - ❖ 91 786 hectares.
- ❖ River Gauja and the Ancient Valley of river Gauja with the Devon sandstone outcrops.
- ❖ More than 500 cultural and historical monuments: castles, manors, archeological monuments.
- ❖ Water tourism in river Gauja, Amata, Brasla etc.



<https://www.daba.gov.lv/en/gauja-national-park>,
<https://www.entergauja.com/en/>

Gauja National park and Landscape area Vecpiebalga: common value - more opportunities

- ❖ The most outstanding landscapes with a huge tourism potential are included in the protected Nature territories.
- ❖ Cēsis partnership territory is one of the most developed rural tourism regions in LV.
- ❖ ENTER GAUJA - the first tourism cluster in LV.



<https://bioregions.lv/en/>

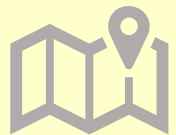
Camping «APAĻKALNS» infrastructure - playground, dog park, mini golf





Partnership for Rural and the Sea

Partnerība laukiem un jūrai (PLJ)



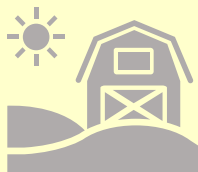
1 329,3 km²



32 % forests



89 712 population

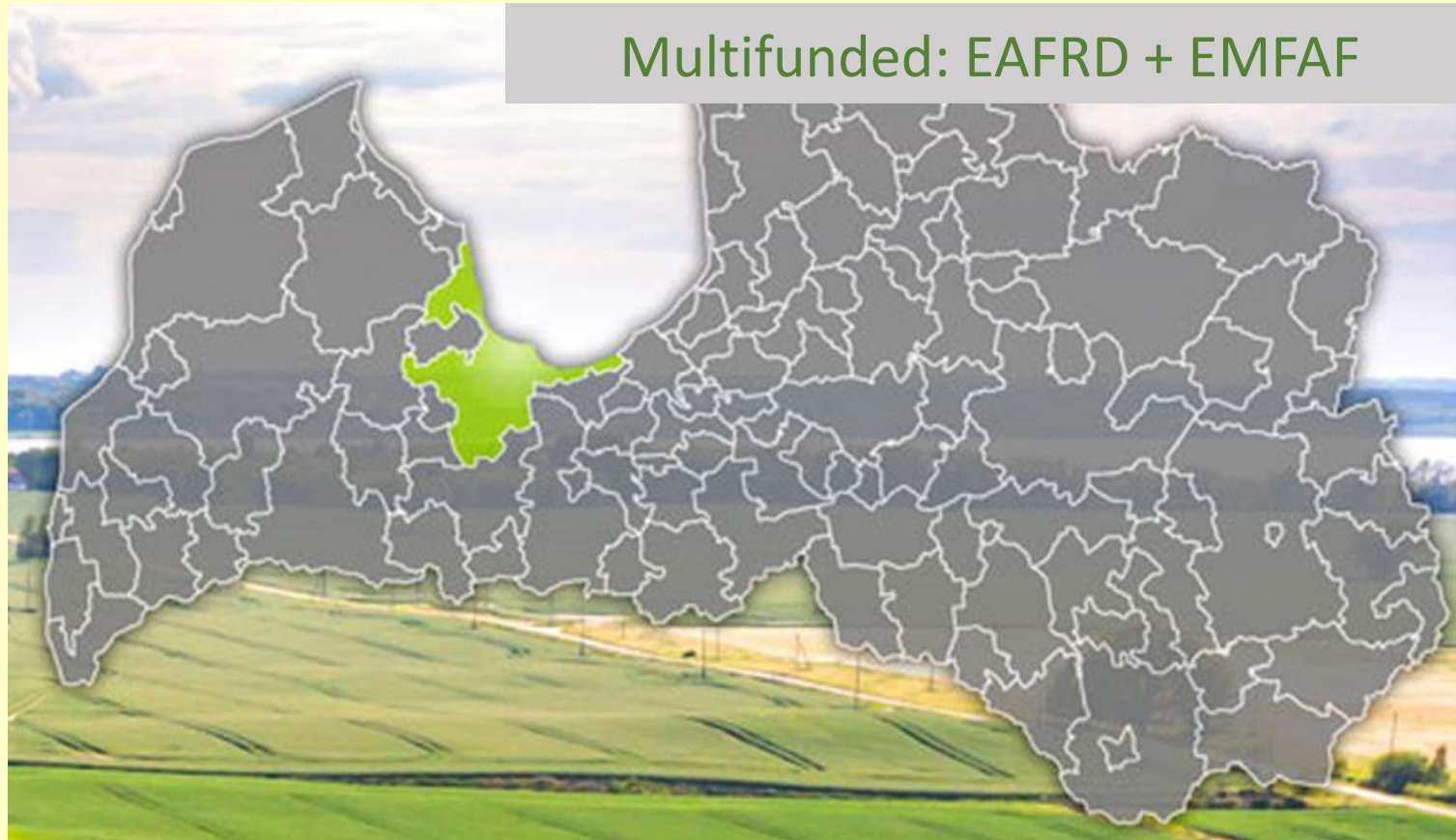


10 parishes & 2 town



76 km Baltic Sea Coastline

Multifunded: EAFRD + EMFAF



www.plj.lv, pasts@plj.lv

Partnership for Rural and the Sea

Partnerība laukiem un jūrai

Priorities:

Support for viable local businesses.
Empowering community initiatives including Smart Villages.
Sustainable coastal development.

Special Features:

Active Youth Board.
2 Smart Villages.
Self funded youth open call.

Protected Nature Areas:

Ķemeri National Park
Engure Lake Nature Park
Milzkalns Nature Reserve
Plienčiems Dune e.o.





Kemeru National park



NATURA
2000



The first EUROPARC in Latvia - sustainable tourism certification since 2002

- ❖ Situated near the capital Riga;
 - ❖ founded in 1997,
 - ❖ 36 165 hectares.
- ❖ 24% bogs and marshes: Kemeru Raised bog etc.
- ❖ Healing resources.

www.kemerunacionalaisparks.lv ,
<https://www.daba.gov.lv/lv/kemeru-nacionalais-parks>



PLJ within the scope of GREENPARK

Tourism:
guesthouses,
campings, food,
fishermen tourism,
hotels



Entertainment :
Upside Down
House, bare foot
trail, art gallery in
forest



Sports & leisure :
Downhill skiing,
cross country skiing,
trail running





North Courland business asociation

Ziemeļkurzemes biznesa asociācija (ZBA)



3 491 km²



70 % forests



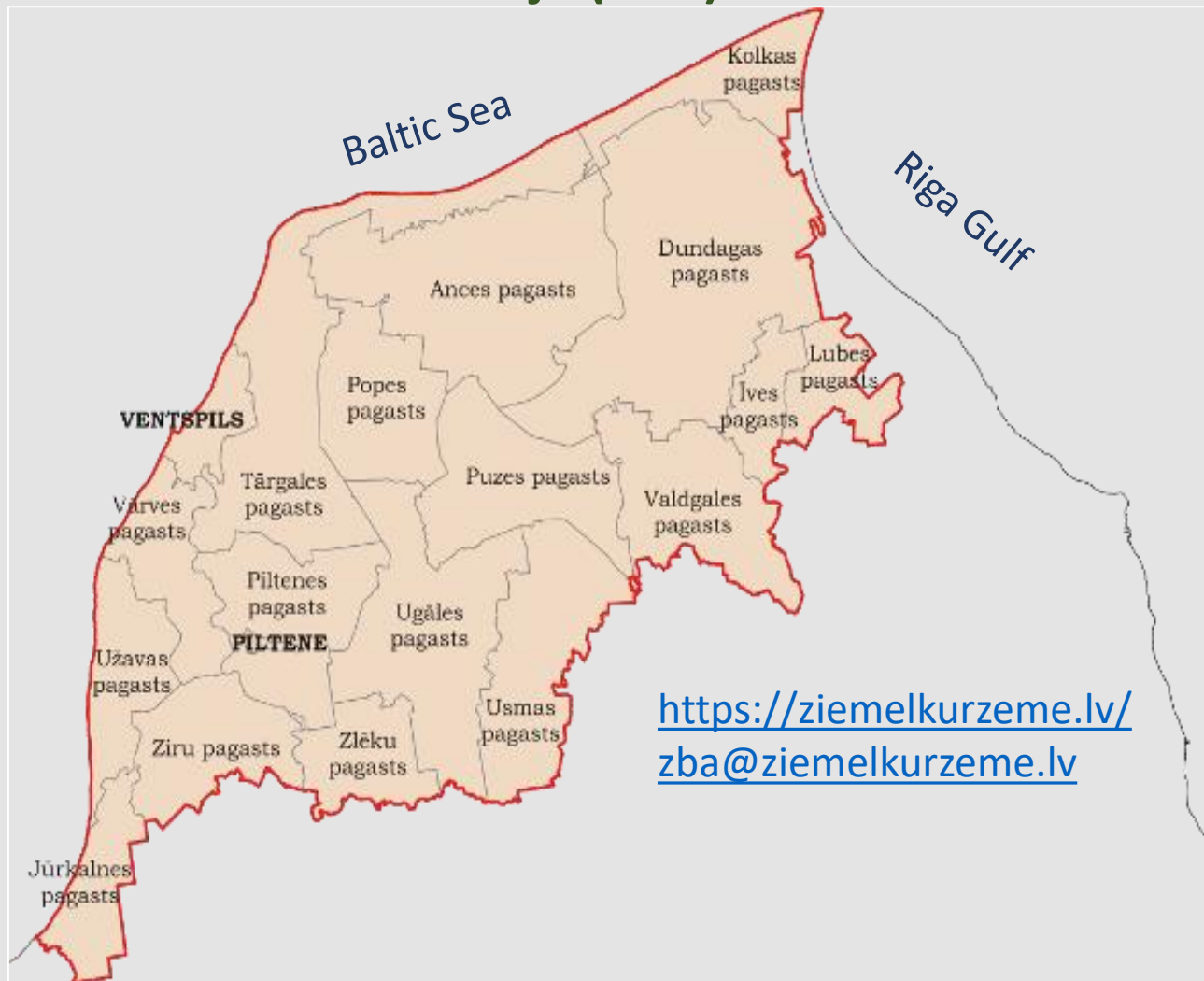
15 804 population



17 parishes & 1 town
in 2 municipalities



Coastline: 144 km



<https://ziemelukurzeme.lv/>
zba@ziemelukurzeme.lv

Multifunded: EAFRD + EMFAF

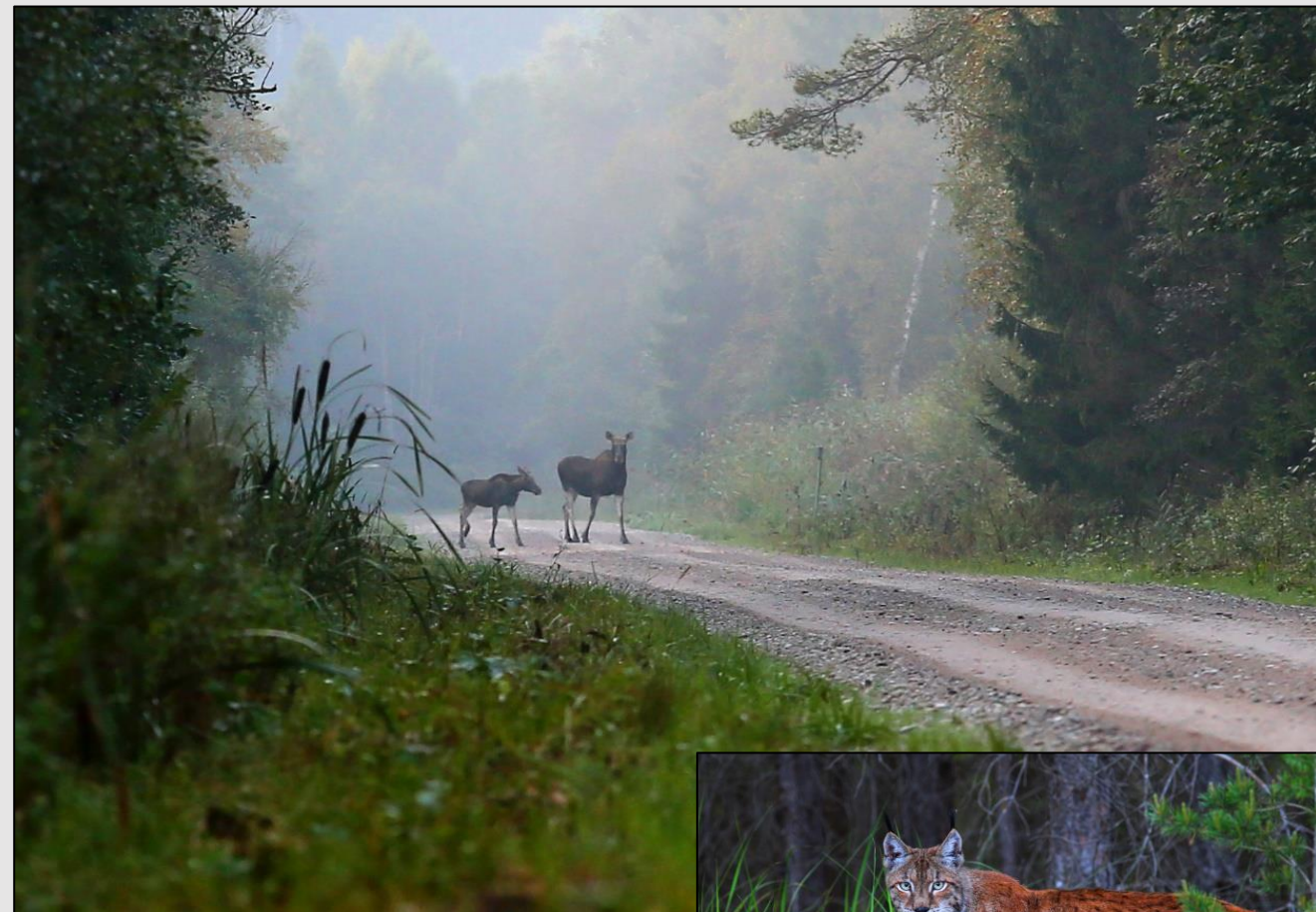


Slītere National Park



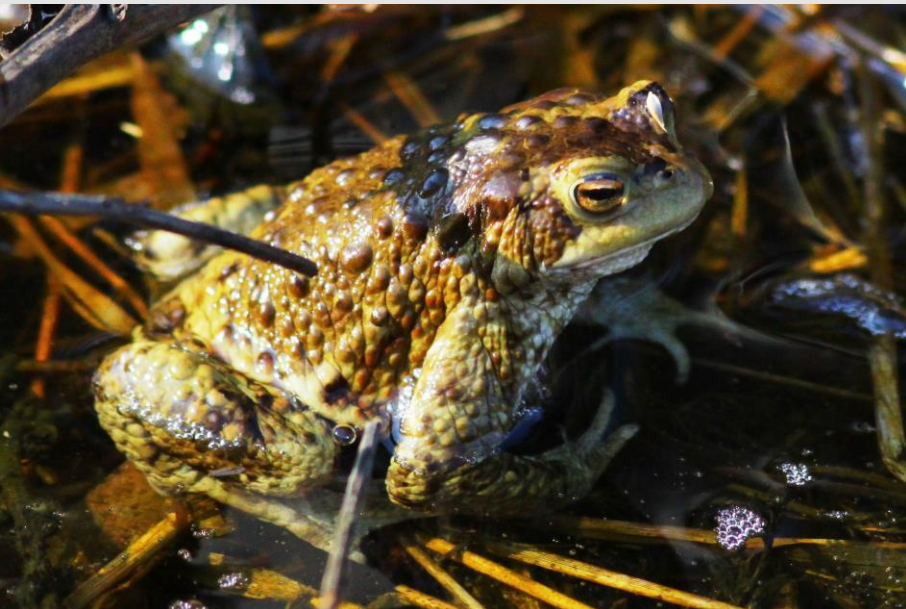
NATURA
2000

- ❖ Founded in 2000
(in 1923 was established as a nature reserve)
- ❖ The smallest NP: 16 365 hectares
- ❖ An excellent area in terms of biodiversity
- ❖ Cultural heritage - Ancient Livonian's fisherman villages
- ❖ Military heritage from World War I and WW II
- ❖ In spring, there is a grandiose concentration of migratory birds



Nature territories in the LAG «ZBA» area

Protected nature territories covers over 30 % of the LAG area (1 national park, more than 30 nature reserves).



Rural bussineses

- ❖ Hospitality enterprises – small campings, guest houses etc.
- ❖ Coastal Fishing in Baltic sea.
- ❖ Home production of smoked fish and other traditional meals, summer cafes.
- ❖ Wilderness exploring tours.
- ❖ others



Thank you!

