

Riga, April 14, 2019

INVITATION

On behalf of Association "Environmental Protection Club of Latvia" and Association "Green Belt of Latvia" within Project "Healthy River - Healthy Me - Healthy Sea: Joint actions for common challenges, (NCM project #18137) we have a pleasure to invite participants from NGOs from major Baltic river catchment (e.g. Vistula/Western Bug, Nemunas, Daugava, Odra and Narva/Peipsi)

to a Transboundary Daugava river rafting/kayaking expedition, which will take place on 14 to 17th May, 2019 on river Daugava (close to Belarus/Latvia border).

Expected amount of participants is limited to: 1-2 person per country per basin, total: 6 basins – max. 18-20 persons

- 3 prs. Western Bug/Vistula (PL, UA, BY),
- 2 prs Narva/Peipsi (RU, EE)
- 2 Odra (PL, DE)
- 4 Nemunas (BY, LT, PL, RU)
- 3 Daugava (RU, BY, LV)
- 2 Pregolya (PL, RU)

Please use this link <http://ejuz.lv/ivertour> to register for the rafting tour **by 03 May 2019**. If participants need visa invitation letters, you should send **applications by April 24th 2019**.

Any technical questions can be send to e-mail: aija.caune@zalajosta.lv

The aim of the rafting tour is: to share knowledge and promote water protection in the Baltic Sea region and look for establishment of a joint transboundary Public Advisory River Teams (PART) in order to:

- facilitate engagement of public and civil society into decision making related to water management issues;
- enhance capacities of public River-Watch monitoring practices to provide data and information that can be used for management purposes;
- develop recommendations and proposals regarding state of abiotic and biotic components of river basins.

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Preliminary Draft Program

(will be updated with more details)

Day 1 - May 14, 2019

~ 17:00. Afternoon. Arrival of participants in the starting point for rafting in Guest house Beibuki Address: Viļūši 4, Viļūši, Naujene, Daugavpils novads).

<https://viesunamiem.lv/en/beibuki>

20.00 dinner. Introduction to all participants.

Day 2 - May 15, 2019

8:30 - 9:30 breakfast

9:30 - 9:45 to the starting point Kaplava

10:00 Start of rafting (sightseeing on the first day), lunch on the grill on the raft or on the campfire.

Discussion and presentation issues during the rafting tour:

* presentations of each country's activities and challenges in the River basin management.

*(Each participant should prepare a short presentation on the issues on river basin management in its country).

* river watch monitoring practice

*Invited lecturers: Various local experts and representatives of different institutions, local municipalities and local NGOs are invited to join the rafting tour for exchanging their experience with rafting tour participants.

18:00 - 19.00 End of boat trip at Guest house Ozianna

(<https://viesunamiem.lv/en/ozianna>), dinner.

Day 3 - May 16, 2019

08:30 to 9:30 Breakfast

10.00 Depart for the second rafting day and sightseeing, lunch on the raft or on the coast.

Discussion and presentation issues during the rafting tour:

* Experience exchange of participants from all NGOs regarding challenges on engagement of public and civil society into decision making related to water management issues;

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*Cooperation issues with state institutions, good practice examples, NGOs as instrument for better water basin management purposes. Conclusions

18: 00-19: 00 Closing dinner at the guest house Beibuki. Discussions around the bonfire. Visiting sauna.

Day 4 - May 17, 2019

9:00 – 10:30 Breakfast and packing for departure.

11:00 Departing to Riga. The bus will drive all participants to CCB Annual meeting place in Baltezers(25 km from Riga), and will pass Riga for those, who want to depart.

A sightseeing tour and excursion will be organised on the way (Likteņdārzs, Plavina Hydro Power Station museum, Koknese castle ruins, Lielvarde wooden castle and Lāčplēša museum, Aizkraukle nature trail, etc.)

Getting to and from the rafting place.

If travelling by bus, you should take bus Riga - Daugavpils, then take bus transfer to Daugavpils - Naujene. The bus stop is Viļūši.

BUS FROM Daugavpils to Naujene:

http://dautrans.lv/?page_id=1441

Bus from Riga to Daugavpils:

<https://www.1188.lv/en/transport/buses/rigas-sao/daugavpils-ao/105317/105258>

<https://www.pv.lv/lv/vilcienu-kustibas-saraksti/> Train Schedule from Riga to Daugavpils

Technical issues:

Participants should be prepared for rafting tour and should have clothes and backpacks ready to raft in rainy as well as sunny weather (rain coats, boots, sun protection lotions, mosquito repellent, individual water bottle, etc.) The participants should be ready for accommodation in camping guest house, which can be partially equipped.

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