Interreg Europe

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REIiHE

The Revival of Kaldabruņas (Červonkas) Church: How Local Initiatives and Sustainable Tourism Revitalize Rural Heritage

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The Story Begins...

01

The Inspiration

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of Latvia's national poet, Rainis, the local association "Ūdenszīmes" organized a creative workshop in 2015.

02

A Forgotten Place

Participants, including artists and young poets, visited a nearby, dilapidated church that had been closed and used as a mineral fertilizer warehouse during the Soviet era.

03

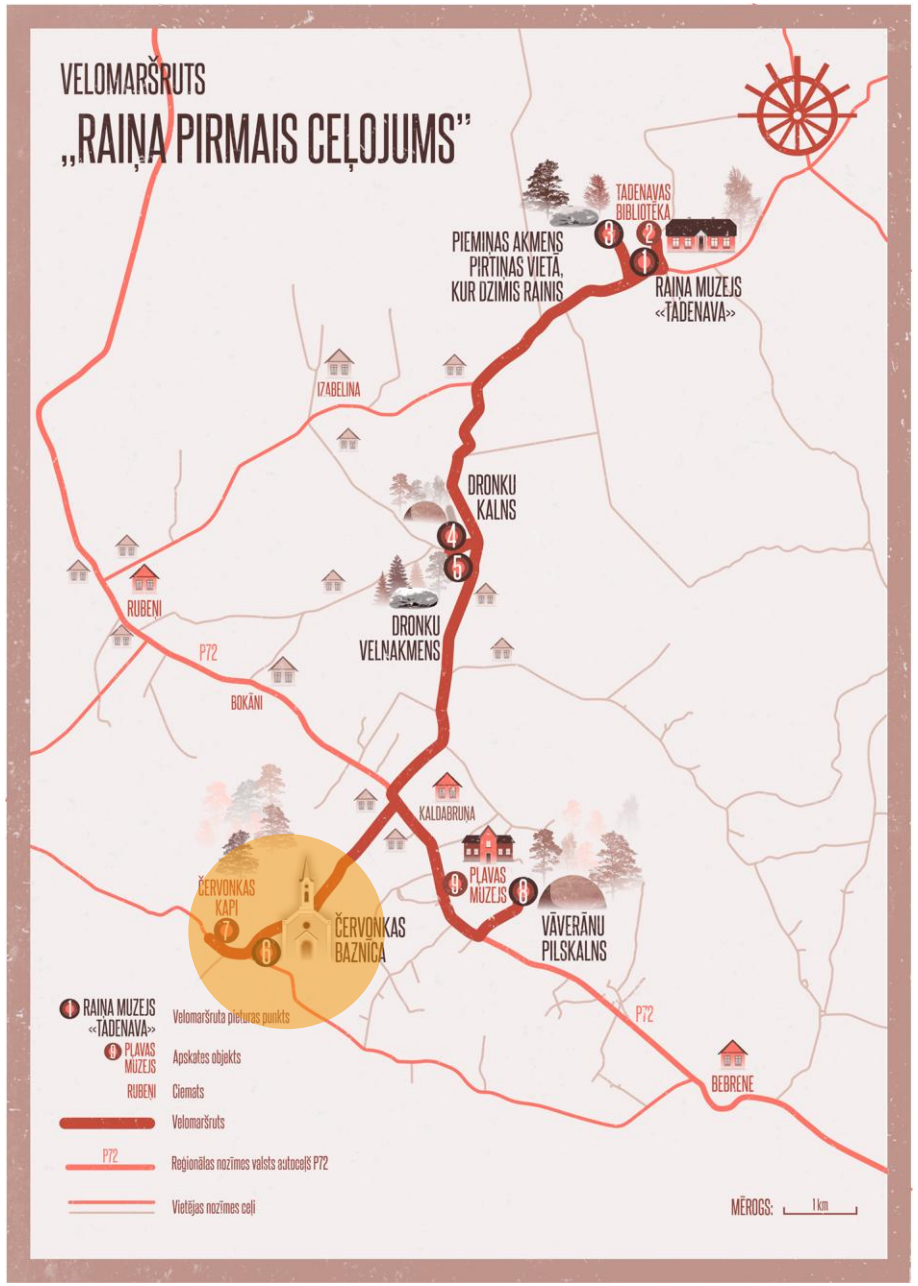
The Discovery

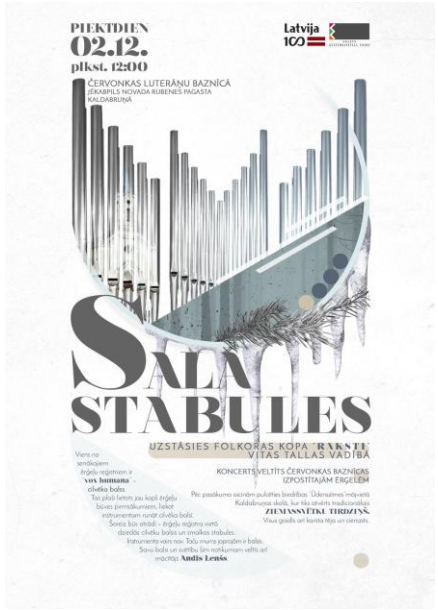
Despite its poor condition, the young participants were captivated by the church's potential.



A New Path is Found

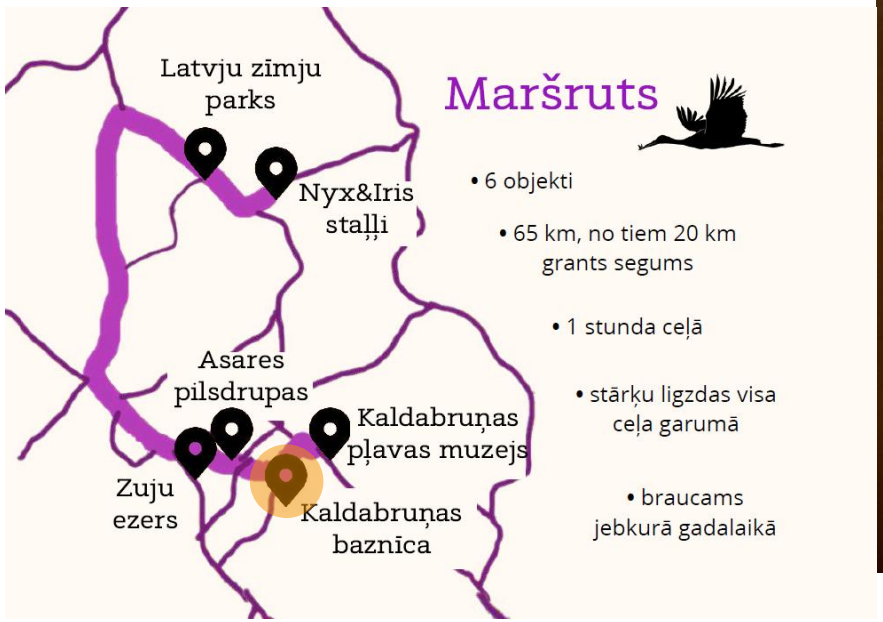
- The workshop led to the creation of a themed route called **"Rainis's First Journey"**.
- The **inclusion of the church on this tourist route** was the key turning point. It brought the church to the attention of locals and visitors, fostering a new sense of purpose for the site.
- The association began hosting concerts and exhibitions, and the church's unique acoustics and stark spaces became a major draw.









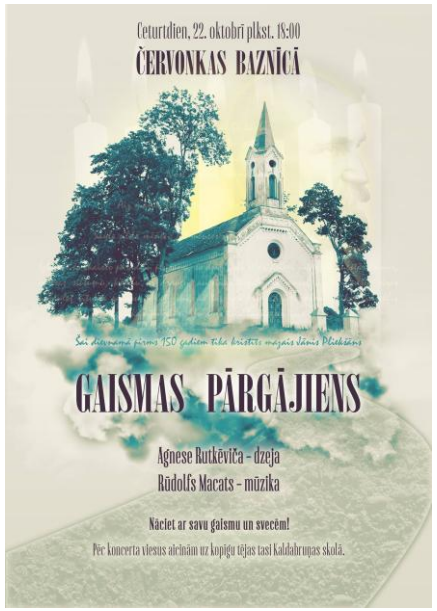


Maršruts

- 6 objekti
- 65 km, no tiem 20 km grants segums
- 1 stunda ceļā
- stārķu ligzdas visa ceļa garumā
- braucams jebkurā gadalaikā






Ceturtdien, 22. oktobrī plkst. 18:00
ČERVONKAS BAZNĪCĀ
GAISMAS PĀRGĀJIENS
Agnese Rutkēviča - dzeja
Rūdolfs Macats - mūzika
Nāciet ar savu gaismu un svecēm!
Pēc koncerta vīnsus aicinām uz kopīgu tējas tasi kalabrunas skolā.


21. septembrī plkst. 18:00
Červonkas baznīcā
Latvijas Mākslas akadēmijas kora
"SENAIS KALNS"
Tru mūzikas koncerts
diriģenti - ZANE KAŽĒNA un EINĀRS VERRO
GUNDA LEINE – soprāns
IRĪNA REBIŅA – soprāns
SINTIJA ŠTEINKOPFA - digitālās klavieres
RAIMONDS MELDERIS – vijole
INGRĪDA DZELZKALĒJA – čells
MADARA MISIŅA - flauta
KONCERTS IR BEZ MAKSAS
ŠIS IR STĀSTS PAR MUMS PAŠIEM.
PAR MŪSU GATAVĪBU UZTURĒT SAVU KULTŪRAS UN DZĪVES TELPU.
PACELT UN ATJAUNOT AIZGĀJUŠO. UN RADĪT SAVU NOSPIEDUMU - SPĒCĪGU UN GAIŠU.

Collaboration



Materials Donated

Timber, paints, and varnishes provided by community supporters



Free Services

Floor laid free of charge, transport arranged for interior elements crafted in Riga



Parish Support

Parish funded new roof whilst community handled interior restoration



Academic Partnership

Riga School of Art and Media students designed church interior as diploma projects


Brīvā Daugava


ALUMĪNIJA TORŅI
UN PACELĀJI
ATS LV
NOMA: K. Ulmaņa gatve 1, Rīga
25 779 555 info@ats.lv



Resources and Results

30K
EUR Funding

The project was largely funded by donations, with approximately 30,000 EUR accumulated.

50
Community Members

A small local community of around 50 residents made significant in-kind contributions, providing food and materials.

Timeline: The interior design and creation took place from 2023 to 2025, culminating in the official reopening in June 2025.

Evidence of Success & Impact

- **Slow Mobility:** Including the church on the tourist route created an "anchor point," attracting visitors interested in a conscious, slow travel experience.
- **Multifunctional Space:** The church, once a warehouse, is now a multifunctional cultural space and a prime example of rural revitalization.







Key Takeaways for Transferability

Empower Local Initiatives

The model shows that grassroots groups are powerful catalysts for change, not just large-scale funding.

Integrate Heritage with Tourism

The creation of cycling and family-friendly routes proves that a historic site can be successfully integrated into a broader tourism network, promoting sustainable "slow mobility" tourism.

Leverage Existing Infrastructure

This project demonstrates that revitalization can be achieved without massive new construction, by repurposing abandoned sites and utilising existing roads.

This model is particularly valuable for rural areas with declining populations and neglected historical sites, offering a sustainable, community-driven path to revitalization.

A Model for Rural Revitalisation

This approach offers a sustainable, community-driven path particularly valuable for rural areas with declining populations and neglected historical sites.

Environmental Benefits

Promotes slow mobility tourism that's environmentally friendly

Cultural Depth

Provides deeper cultural experiences contrasting with fast tourism

Community Ownership

Demonstrates how limited resources can achieve remarkable results through engagement

Thank You!

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The project REliHE is implemented in the framework of the Interreg Europe programme and co-financed by the European Union.

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