



Liepāja Society of the Blind

Uniting people with visual and other disabilities since 1956

Our mission is

To work and serve today for people with disabilities, to take care of their spiritual and temporal needs, to encourage the participation of people with disabilities so that everyone is involved, belonging and useful.

Liepaja Society of the Blind has

- 905 members
- 30 volunteers
- 86 employees, 60 of whom are people with disabilities

Main activities

- **Social rehabilitation**
- **Education and employment for people with disabilities**
- **Accessibility, universal design principles, equal opportunities for all people**
- **Cooperation with local governments, state institutions, foundations, entrepreneurs, as well as non-governmental organizations and other cooperation partners**

Geology for the Visually Impaired and the Disabled

Erasmus+ project



Implemented activities

1.10.2020 – 1.10.2022

Choosing and describing 21 geosites in Latvia, translating necessary information in English. April – June 2021.

GEOSITE INVENTORY SHEET

GEOSITE CODE: LV0440470
 NAME: ~~Lustūzis~~

ASSOCIATED GEOSITES: ~~Gauja~~ National Park, ~~Ligatne~~ ancient valley, ~~Amata~~ gorge,
~~Vanaži~~ Rock, ~~Zvārtiņi~~ Rock

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

GEOSITE LOCATION	Gauja National Park, Ligatne county, Ligatne. The territory is located on the slope of the Ligatne ancient valley and next to the ancient valley, in the Gaujave lowland. Lustūzis is located east of Vanaži Rock, on the right bank of the Amata River.
GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATIONS	X: 582929 Y: 343949 E25° 02.550' un N57° 14.058'
ALTITUDE	3,5 m
DIMENSIONS	The area of the natural monument is 4,89 ha. Lustūzis is a 140 m long and up to 3,5 m high rock.

GEOSITE CATEGORY:

Protected geological and geomorphological natural monument.

DESIGNATION:

Located within the ~~Gauja~~ National Park. There are EU protected habitats in the area - sandstone outcrops (8220) and undisturbed caves (8310). Some man-made cellars are important as wintering grounds for bats.

ACCESSIBILITY:

Good. At the southern end of the territory, next to the center of the town, there is a developed amenity infrastructure – footpaths with capital railings, stairs and viewing platforms. Guide services available with prior booking at Amata Municipality Tourism Information Centre. There is a parking lot by ~~Vanaži~~ bridge (free of charge) and ~~Zvārtiņi~~ Rock (for a charge from May until October). There is a free picnic spot and restroom by the ~~Zvārtiņi~~ Rock Visitor Centre.

GEOSITE USE:

This complex of formations is important from the point of view of geology, landscape and cultural history, as well as important for the diversity of wildlife. View from the ~~Lustūzis~~ rapids is a popular place among ~~travellers~~ for taking photos.

GEOSITE DESCRIPTION

~~Lustūzis~~ is the only Devonian period red sandstone rock in ~~Ligatne~~, where caves are located on several floors in basements. The cellars were built here by the people of

~~Ligatne~~ in the 18th century. In the rock, which is exposed as vertical and slightly sloping sandstone fields, cellars were cut for the needs of the locals. In total, there are more than 20 separate cellars and 2 larger collective cellars with one main aisle and separate cellars as short sides. The large cellars are abandoned, but the small ones, which are located on the 2 floors of the outcrop, are still partially used. In total, there are 200 such cellars in ~~Ligatne~~. The rock embraces the curve of the Amata River like a big horseshoe and from the top of the rock there are beautiful views of the ancient valley of ~~Ligatne~~, the town of ~~Ligatne~~ and the paper mill. In springtime, experienced water tourism enthusiasts include ~~Lustūzis~~ rock in their adventure routes as it gives an opportunity to feel adrenaline and speed, and the thrill of navigating rapids and suddenly being pressed against the rugged rock wall.

PHOTOGRAPH



Co-funded by the
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Translating the project webpage's Latvian section www.g4vid.eu/lv/. April – June 2021.



Par projektu G4ViD



Co-funded by the
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G4ViD ir projekts, kura mērķis ir sniegt studentiem un pedagogiem, īpašu uzmanību pievēršot cilvēkiem ar redzes traucējumiem un cilvēkiem ar invaliditāti, iespējas izbaudīt ģeoparku pieredzi un iepazīstināt viņus ar Zemes zinātnēm. Projekta mērķis ir arī nodrošināt izglītības rīkus (kartes un interaktīvu audiovizuālo saturu), kas tiks izstrādāti, lai skolām, skolotājiem un skolēniem būtu iespējas attālināti izprast ģeoparkus, kā arī atvieglotu navigāciju cilvēkiem ar invaliditāti reālos apmeklējumos.

Mūsu galvenais uzdevums šajā projektā ir izstrādāt divas lietotnes un vienu interaktīvu vietni, kas saistīta ar ģeoloģiju un ģeoparkiem cilvēkiem ar redzes traucējumiem un cilvēkiem ar invaliditāti, kā arī plašākai sabiedrībai.

Pirmā lietotne pārvēidos attēlus un ģeoloģiskos pierādījumus, piemēram, fosilijas, akmeņus vai pārakmeņojušos kokus skaņā. Kad tas notiek, cilvēks ar redzes invaliditāti var pieskarties skārienekrānam un "sajust" fosilijas vai ģeoloģisko pierādījumu formu atbilstoši skaņas izmaiņām.

Otrā lietotne attiecas uz kartēšanas un navigācijas lietojumprogrammu ar īpašām funkcijām cilvēkiem ar invaliditāti un cilvēkiem ar redzes invaliditāti. Izmantojot šo kartēšanas lietotni, ģeoparka apmeklētājiem tiek sniegta



Translating the G4ViD Questionnaire to Latvian language, interviewing visually impaired persons and persons with mobility disability. August – October 2021.



G4ViD aptaujas anketa - G4ViD questionnaire

Konteksts un mērķis

G4ViD projekta mērķis ir izstrādāt pietiekoši spējīgu sistēmu, lai būtiski atvieglotu psiholoģisko stāvokli cilvēkiem ar invaliditāti – ļaujot viņiem uztvert ģeoloģiskos objektus un principus, izmantojot skaņas, kā arī radot viņiem iespējas droši apmeklēt ģeoparkus. Ceļā uz šo mērķi tiek izstrādāta aptaujas anketa, lai aptvertu pēc iespējas vairāk cilvēku ar redzes vai kustību traucējumiem, kas varētu palīdzēt novērtēt vairākus kritiskos aspektus.

Context and objective

G4ViD objective is to develop a system with enough capabilities to substantially alleviate the psychological situation of disabled people – allowing them to perceive geological objects and principles utilizing sounds and also allow them to safely visit geoparks. Towards this direction, a questionnaire is being developed in order to be distributed to as many as possible people with visual impairment or mobility disability in order to assess several critical aspects.

Dalībnieka dati - Participant Data

Vecums-Age Valsts-Country Dzimums-Gender: ☒ Vīr ☐ Siev ☐

1. Kāda ir Jūsu redzes traucējumu pakāpe? - What is the degree of your visual impairment?

(izvēlieties vienu atbildi - select one box)

- ☐ Nav redzes traucējumu - No visual impairment
☐ Viegli - Low ☐ Nopietni - Severe
☐ Vidēji - Moderate ☐ Gandrīz pilns/ pilns zudums - Near-total/ total

2. Kad Jūs ieguvāt redzes traucējumus? - When did you acquire your visual impairment?

(izvēlieties vienu atbildi - select one box)

- ☐ No dzimšanas - At birth ☐ Kā pieaugušais - As an adult
☐ Bērnībā - As a child ☐ N/A

3. Kāda ir Jūsu kustību traucējumu pakāpe? - What is the degree of your mobility disability?

(izvēlieties vienu atbildi - select one box)

- ☐ Nav kustību traucējumu - No mobility disability
☐ Viegli - Low ☐ Nopietni - Severe
☐ Vidēji - Moderate ☐ Gandrīz pilns/ pilns zudums - Near-total/ total

4. Kad Jūs ieguvāt kustību traucējumus? - When did you acquire mobility disability?

(izvēlieties vienu atbildi - select one box)

- ☐ No dzimšanas - At birth ☐ Kā pieaugušais - As an adult
☐ Bērnībā - As a child ☐ N/A

5. Vai Jūs vēlētos iegūt vairāk informācijas par ģeoloģiju cilvēkiem ar invaliditāti ar uzsvaru uz izglītību vai uz izklaidi? - Do you wish to have more geology content for disabled with emphasis on education or on enjoyment?

(izvēlieties vienu atbildi - select one box)

- ☐ Ar uzsvaru uz izglītību - Emphasis on education ☐ Abus vienādi - Both equally
☐ Ar uzsvaru uz izklaidi - Emphasis on enjoyment

6. Par kuriem ģeoloģijas aspektiem, jūsprāt, Jums ir mazāka izpratne jūsu traucējumu dēļ? - Which aspects of geology do you feel you have less understanding of due to your impairments?

(izvēlieties vienu vai vairākas atbildes - select one or more boxes)

- ☐ Pamatprincipu izpratne - Understanding basic principles ☐ Iztēloties, kādi ģeoloģiskie objekti patiesībā ir - Imagining how geoparks really are
☐ Izpratne par sarežģītiem principiem - Understanding complex principles

7. Vai Jūs izmantojat atbalsta tehnoloģijas, lai pārvietotos telpās un vidē? - Do you use assistive technologies to move in the premises and in the environment?

(izvēlieties vienu atbildi - select one box)

- ☐ Jā, visu laiku - Yes, constantly ☐ Dažreiz - Sometimes
☐ Nē - No

8. Vai esat kādreiz apmeklējis ģeoloģisko objektu vai ģeoparku? - Have you ever visited a geological site or geopark?

(izvēlieties vienu atbildi - select one box)

- ☐ Jā, daudzas reizes - Yes, many times ☐ Jā, dažas reizes - Yes, few times
☐ Nē - No

9. Kāda veida palīdzība Jums būtu nepieciešama, lai apmeklētu geoparku? - What kind of assistance would you need in order to visit a geopark?

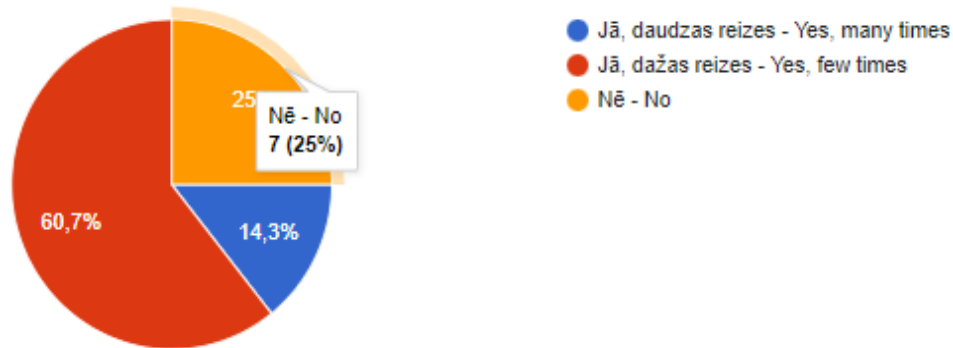
(izvēlieties vienu vai vairākas atbildes - select one or more boxes)

- ☐ Pieejamu vietu sagatavošana un izvēlēšanās - Preparation and selection of accessible sites ☐ Informācija, lai izprastu objekta zinātnisko vērtību - Information in order to understand the scientific value of the site
☐ Palīdzēt atrast interesējošos objektus - Help locating points of interest ☐ Palīdzēt izjust objekta skaistumu - Help to feel the beauty of the site

Summarizing the answers and giving the feedback.

8. Have you ever visited a geological site or geopark? - Vai esat kādreiz apmeklējis ģeoloģisko objektu vai ģeoparku?

28 atbildes



9. Kāda veida palīdzība Jums būtu nepieciešama, lai apmeklētu ģeoparku? - What kind of assistance would you need in order to visit a geopark?

28 atbildes



Participating in the International Events

Preparatory Meeting in Lesvos, Greece, 19 - 23 July 2021.
Three responsible persons from the Liepaja Society of the Blind participated.



C1 event in Sevilla, Spain, 18 - 22 October 2021.
Seven persons from the Liepaja Society of the Blind participated.
Six of them were people with disabilities.



Middle Evaluation Meeting in Patras, Greece, 9 - 11 March 2022.
Three responsible persons from the Liepaja Society of the Blind participated.



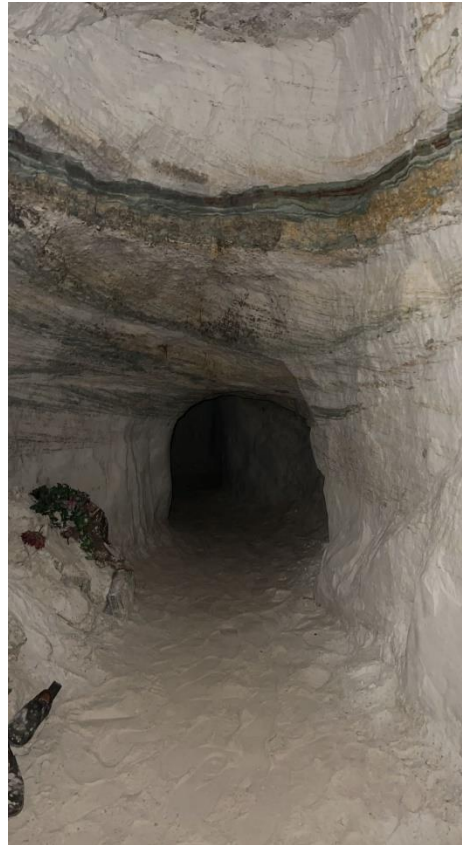
Organizing C2 event in Latvia, 23-27 May 2022.

Our partners visited Liepaja Society of the Blind and our countryside estate “Garden of Soul Relief”



We visited 3 geosites:

- Venta Rapid
- Riezhupe sand caves
- Gutman's cave



Participating in G4ViD application testing

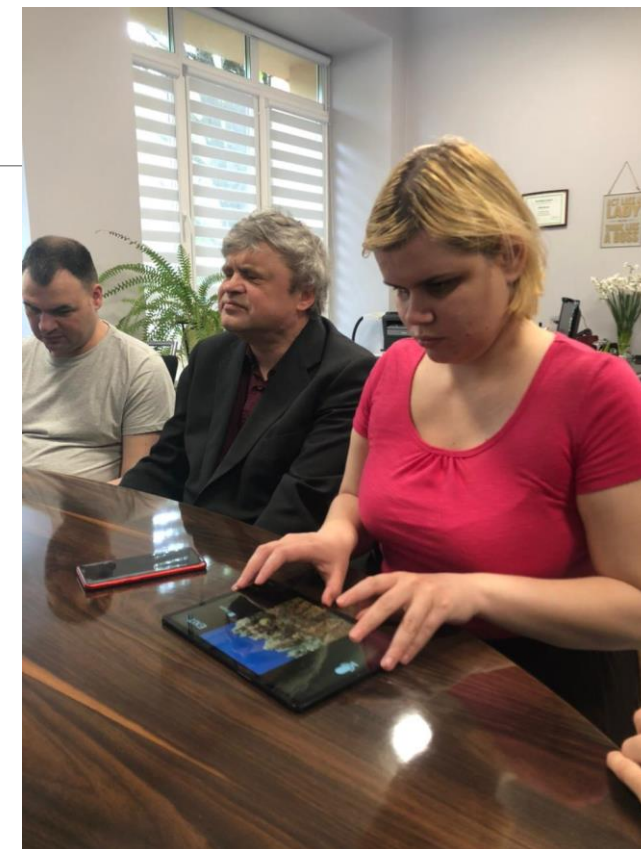


Our members tested the app during the events in Sevilla, Patras and in Latvia.



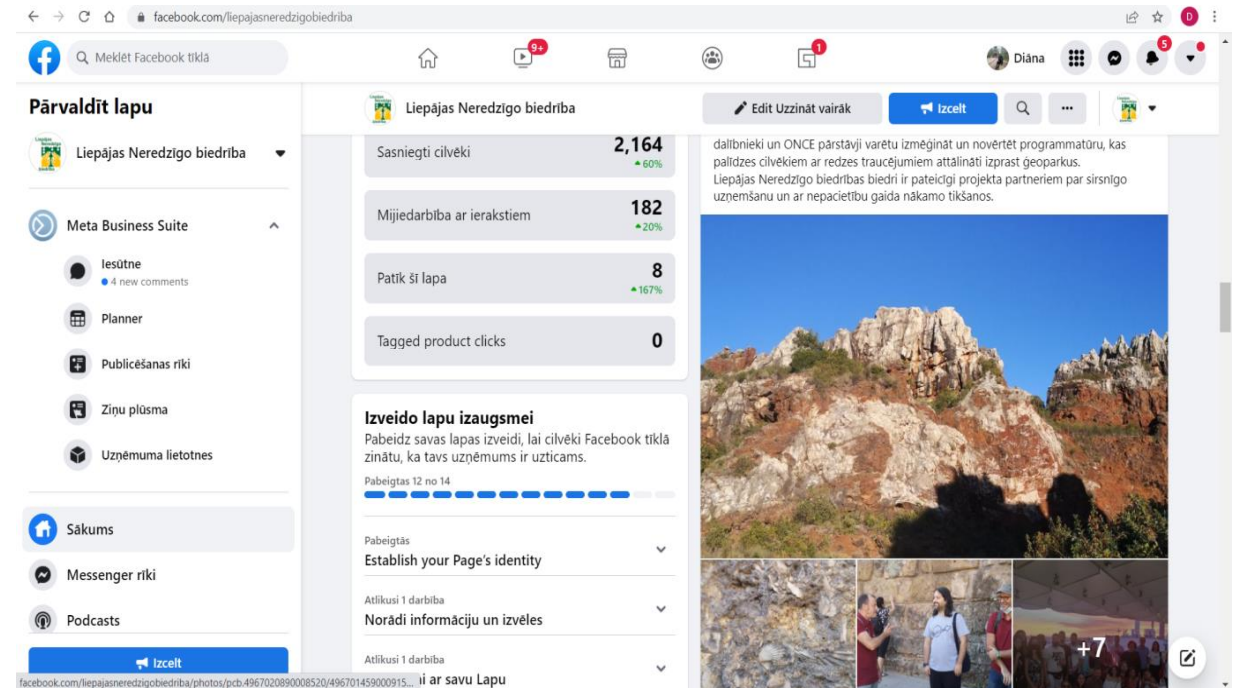
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Also in the app testing we involved Strazdumuizha school's students with visual impairments and the clients from Rehabilitation Center of Latvian Society of the Blind in Riga.



Sharing the information about the G4ViD project

We are publishing information about the project in our webpage www.redzigaismu.lv and on social networks (as Facebook, Instagram and others) as well as in our Society's newspaper.



We have created a bulletin board in the Liepaja Society of the Blind

Here we place the actual information in English and in Latvian about the G4ViD project. In that way people, who are coming to the Liepaja Society of the Blind, get informed about the project's activities.

One of the target groups are the members of the Society, attending our workshops and lessons.



The next kind of visitors are groups of schoolchildren and students coming to us for excursions.

A special guide shows them our facilities and classrooms, and children can feel themselves what does that mean having different visual impairments.



We also tell them about our participation in G4ViD project and how important it is for visually impaired people to be involved in such projects.

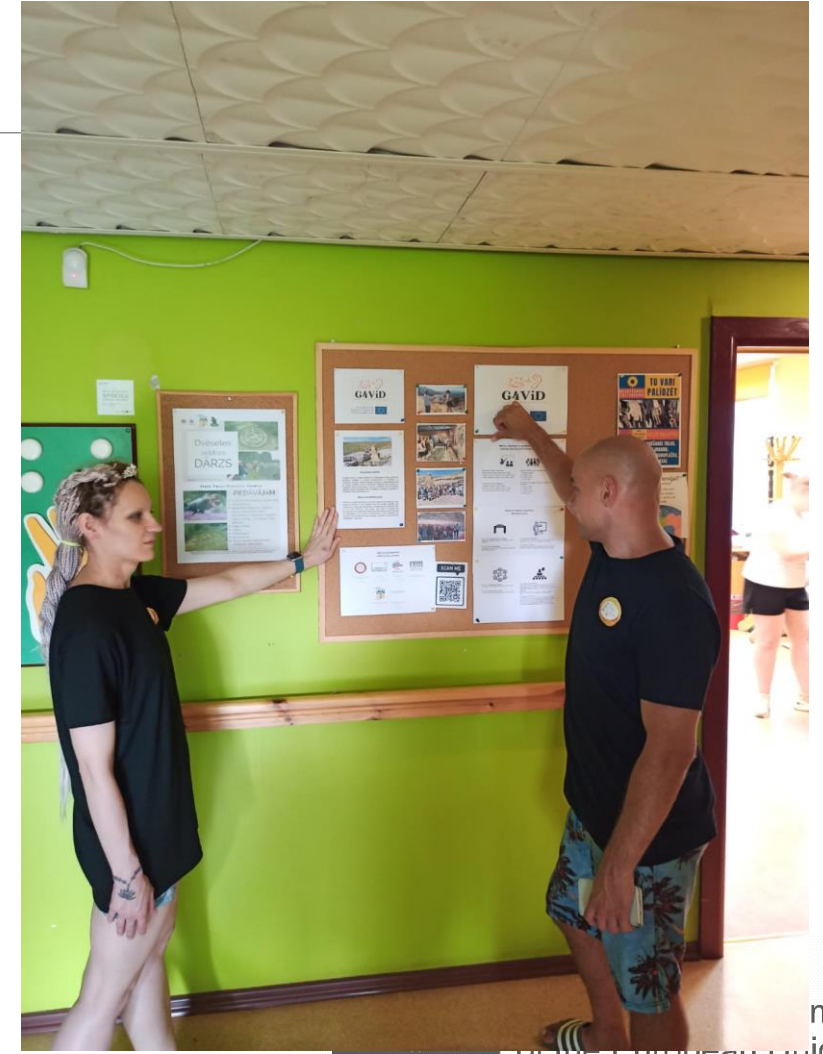


Like these excursions and information we also provide to:

- Individual visitors
- New members, joining the Society of the Blind
- People from different organizations coming to us for sharing of best practices within their projects

Also, there are different international events, taking place in the Liepaja Society of the Blind.

This summer we held the International showdown tournament “Amber of Liepaja”, where visually impaired players from 10 countries participated. So, we shared our project’s experience also with them.



We tell about our participation in G4ViD project during the meetings of the most active members, which we hold 2 – 3 times a year.



And during the annual International White Cane Day's event. This year more than 300 of our members came to celebrate this day.



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Within a year, especially in summer, a lot of people, in groups and individually, are coming for excursions to our Garden of Soul Relief in countryside.



In the context of the G4ViD project we also included in the exposition a range of stones of different sizes and geologic materials.



THANK YOU!



Liepāja Society of the Blind

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