

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen  
Dear CHARTS Project Partners  
Distinguished Members of the ECTN  
Friends,



It is my pleasure and honour, on behalf of Vidzeme Tourism Association and Municipalities from Vidzeme Region in Northern Latvia, to welcome all of you at the Closing Conference of the CHARTS project.

I am a Mayor of Ērgļi Municipality and Board member of Vidzeme Tourism Association.

Vidzeme is one of Latvia's cultural and historical regions, rich with beautiful landscape, cultural heritage and traditions. 10 local municipalities of the region are members of the CHARTS project and have had the wonderful opportunity to learn and share experience of OUR culture and OUR heritage on the specific topics, as well as adopt the best practices of other partners locally.

This exchange will promote and protect OUR culture and heritage, create new opportunities for jobs in the tourism industry, improve environmental conditions, attract new visitors and involve all stakeholders and other interested parts for planning, conservation and environment protection in the regional, national and European level.

The lessons learned from the CHARTS project will also allow us to better prepare for the next planning period and contribute towards Europe 2020 Strategy.

I would like to say THANK YOU to all CHARTS Partners for lessons given during the last two and half years.

My special appreciation goes to the project coordinator Mr. Manos Vougioukas who gave us an opportunity to develop cultural tourism in Vidzeme, and for his support to promote the project results internationally.

I wish to all of us to enjoy these days together and to be proud about ourselves, about the work that has been done, and will be done for cultural tourism development in our regions and destinations for our shared future!

Thank you very much!

Guntars Velcis