



Līdzfinansē  
Eiropas Savienības  
Erasmus+ programma

Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships project  
«Network of UNESCO Cultural Spaces»  
No.2020-1-LV01-KA204-077559

# Presentation on the activities of Ethnic Culture Centre Suiti Foundation







## Ethnic Culture Centre Suiti Foundation

- founded in 2001 in the Alsunga village with the aim to promote the identification of the Suiti region as an ethnic community and to preserve, protect and develop the Suiti cultural heritage
- ~57 members, incl. 3 Suiti municipalities
- the main target group - about 2,500 residents of Suiti community (Alsunga, Jūrkalne and Gudenieki). Departments: Suiti heritage repository «Suitu mantojuma krātuve», Weaving workshop "Austuve", Traditional kitchen "Suitu ķēķis"

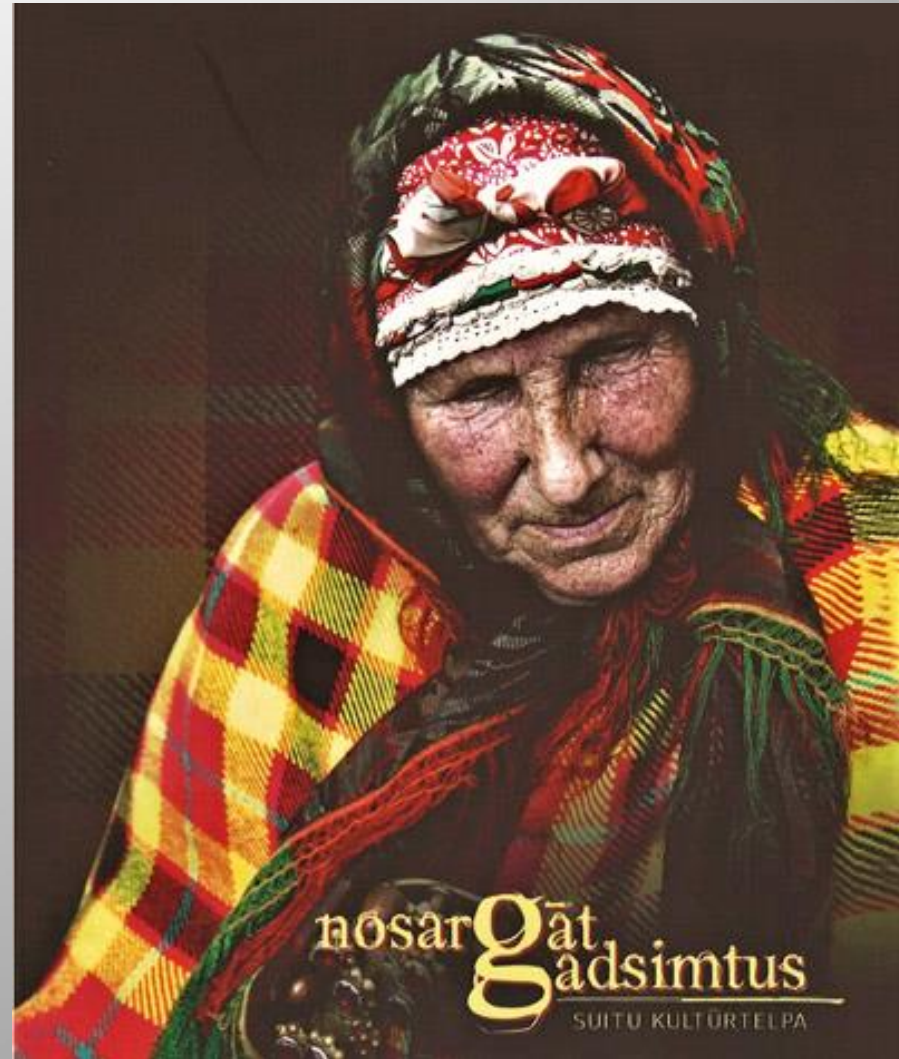


ECC Suiti receives  
The sign of Latvian heritage  
for preservation and promotion  
of cultural heritage

- since 2008, ECC Suiti has been granted the status of a public benefit organization
- initiator, community representative for the inclusion of the Suiti Cultural Space in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List in Need of Urgent Safeguarding (included in 2009)
- [www.suiti.lv](http://www.suiti.lv)

Part of UNESCO nomination file:  
video «**Preserving centuries**»  
(2008)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ZG4a83rSkQ>



**According to new Administrative – Territorial Reform (2021), Suti community will be divided in 2 municipalities.**

**President of Latvia Egils Levits urges to define historical Latvian lands and rights of local communities in legislation after the regional reform.**



# **Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan (part of UNESCO nomination file, updated every 4 years) – many organisations involved in the implementation of the plan**

## **1. Research and documentation**

**Objective: to provide methodological documentation, research and promotion of the intangible and tangible cultural heritage of the Suiti by developing cooperation with educational and research institutions.**

1.1. Identification, documentation, research, digitization of the intangible and tangible cultural heritage of the Suiti (folklore, traditional festivals and honors, language, skills, textiles, household items, tools, historical buildings, etc.)

1.2. Suiti history research and publishing.

1.3. Digitize and make available suiti intangible and tangible value research / materials.

1.4. To identify, study and digitize the sacred heritage. Documentation and digitization of religious traditions.

1.5. Production of audio and video materials for preservation and promotion of intangible cultural heritage. Digitization of cultural events.

1.6. Establishment of the Suiti Museum (local history center)

# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

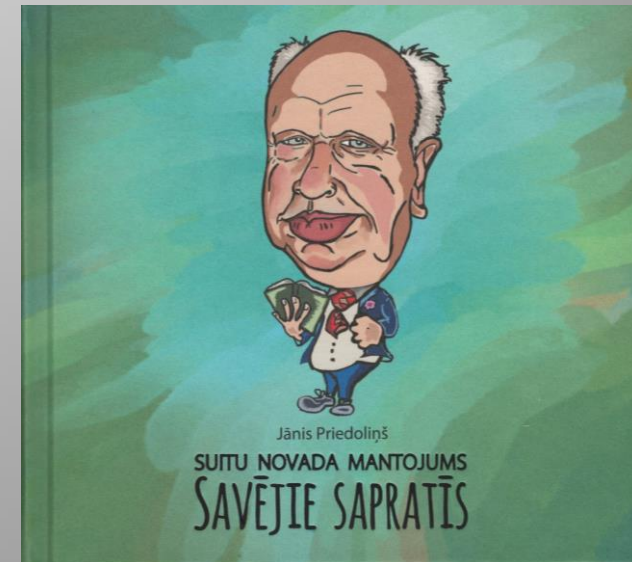
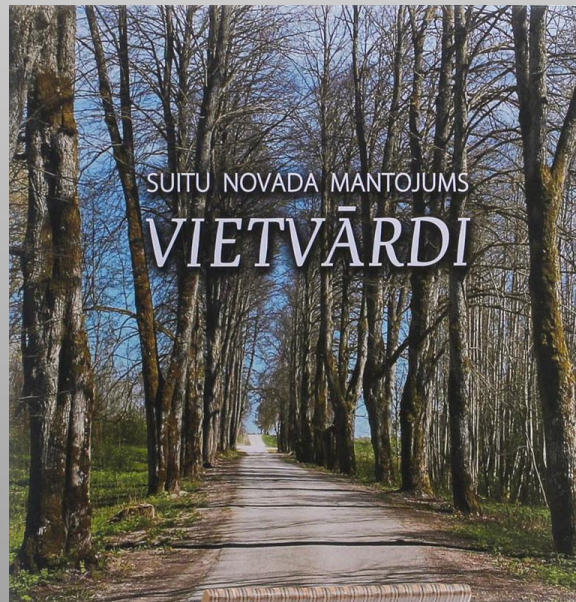
## 1. Research and documentation

Over the last 10 years, various studies have been conducted on Suiti culture:

- Researchers and students of Latvian Academy of Culture and Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music
- ECC Suiti research on Suiti drone (Bourdon) singing; a book «Suitu burdons» published
- ECC Suiti research on Suiti dialect; a book «Suitu novada mantojums. Vietvārdi» published
- Compilation and digitization of stories in the Suiti dialect; a book «Savējie sapratīs» published
- Suiti dialect recordings can be listened to at [www.suiti.lv](http://www.suiti.lv)

Descriptions of Suiti traditions, research and activities of the association and available

[www.suiti.lv](http://www.suiti.lv), [www.suitunovads.lv](http://www.suitunovads.lv)

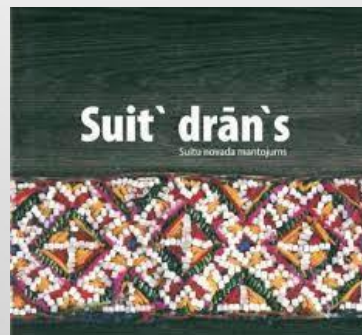
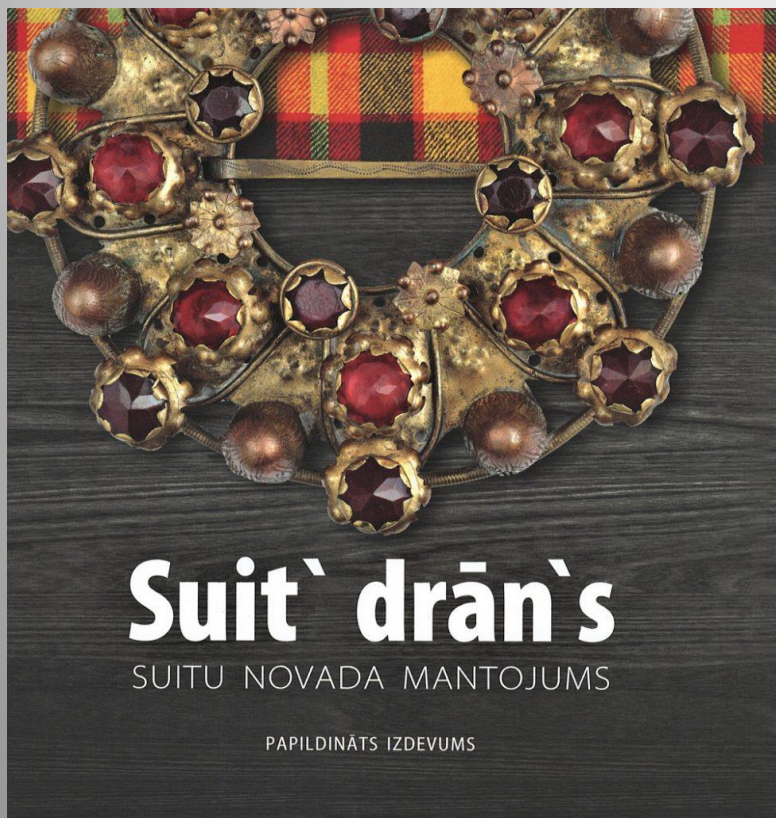




# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

## 1. Research and documentation

- ECC Suiti research on Suiti traditional costumes «Suit'drāns. Suitu novada mantojums»



# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

## 1. Research and documentation

- ECC Suiti research on Suiti traditional costumes «Suit villdrāns. Suitu novada mantojums» and «Cimdi. Suitu novada mantojums.»
- Field study of Dzidra Sondore about traditional cuisine; book «Suitu dzīvesstāsti un ēdieni»
- Various studies and publications carried out by Serde Foundation



# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

## 1. Research and documentation

- Architect's Guntis Kalniņš research on old Suiti farmsteads EST-LAT project „Supporting the Renaissance of Seto and Suiti Ethnic Cultures».
- As a result of the research, children's expedition was organized in 2017 "Farmstead stories"



# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

## 1. Research and documentation

- Kyoto University (Japan) anthropology student's Norie Tsuruta research on Suiti culture
- Documentary film "Ruch and Norie" (it received four Lielais Kristaps film awards)
- Japanese author's study of Latvians, including suiti gloves and socks; published in book

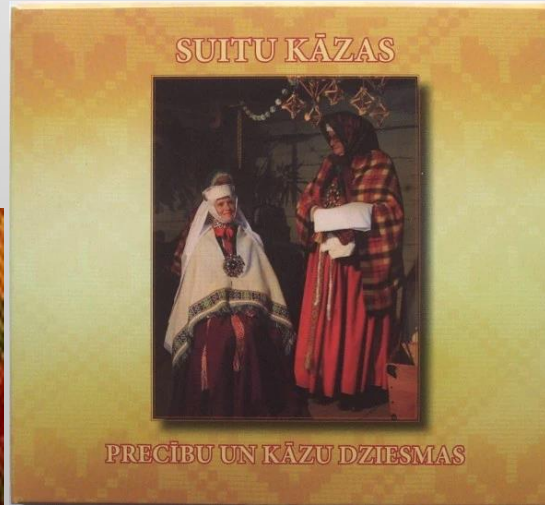
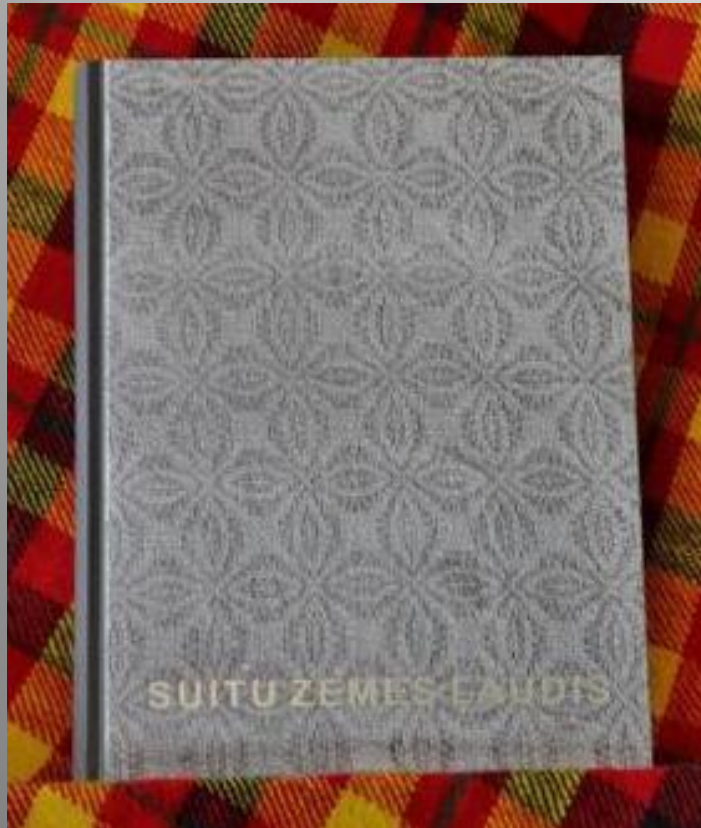
<https://vimeo.com/ondemand/rucsunnorie>



# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

## 1. Research and documentation

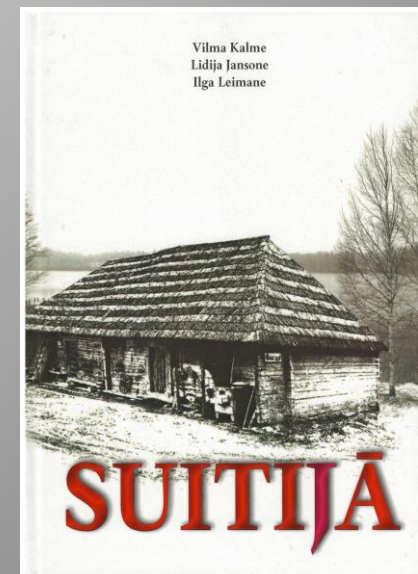
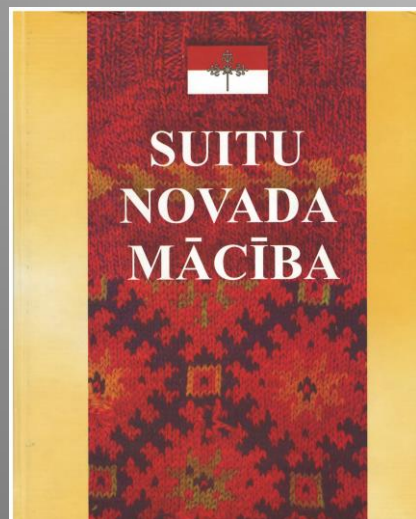
- ECC Suiti book of Suiti photos, author of photos – Dzintars Leja
- CD «Suiti wedding. Suiti wedding songs»
- Opera «Suitu sāga», author of the libretto – pr.Gatis Mārtiņš Bezdelīga



# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

## 1. Research and documentation

- Research of Suiti dialect and grammar – stories, legends are written from local people
- Research of Suiti dialect – local names, sayings, Suiti-Latvian and Latvian-Suiti dictionary, published in websites [www.suitunovads.lv](http://www.suitunovads.lv) [www.suiti.lv](http://www.suiti.lv)
- ECC Suiti activities in reserach and digitization of local history in cooperation with Kuldiga regional public library
- ECC Suiti cooperation with local researchers Lidija Jansone and Marija Janvāre – publications about suiti traditions and the history of Jūrkalne St.Joseph's Catholic church
- <https://suiti.lv/katolu-baznica/>
- Teaching materials for Suiti children



# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

## 2. Practice, transfer, education

**Objective: To promote all types of education, practice and transfer activities at all levels of education and for all target groups, in order to ensure the sustainability of the traditions of the Suiti cultural space and intergenerational cooperation in their transfer.**

2.1. State Culture Capital Fund program “Preservation and Sustainability of Intangible Cultural Heritage Listed Values, including Suiti Cultural Space”

2.2. Provide and promote lifelong learning training.



# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

2.3. Provision of suiti education at Alsunga Secondary School and kindergarten “Mikēlītis”.

2.4. Traditional Suiti celebrations and holidays. Organization of festivals and other larger cultural events.





# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

2.5. Celebrating religious holidays and inheriting Christian traditions, promoting intergenerational cooperation and church activities.



# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

2.6. Promotion of international co-operation, establishment of co-operation and promotion of exchange of experience with similar communities or common traditions in Latvia and in the world.



# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

2.7. To support the activities of amateur art groups.

2.8. The Alsunga School of Music provides for the acquisition of traditional musical instrument playing, as well as the acquisition of the visual arts program includes the acquisition of traditional visual art means of expression characteristic of suits.

2.9. Development of non-formal education for adults and students.

2.10. To maintain the existing and promote a new creative workshop both as a space and as a service operation and development.

2.11. To preserve the existing and promote the creation and development of new expositions (Suiti Heritage Repository, Jūrkalne Antiquities Room, exposition “Vētru muzejs”, “Suitu Godī”, permanent expositions of Alsunga Tourist Information Center, Alsunga Castle)

2.12. The establishment of a Suiti ethnographic farm. A place set in a rural setting and presenting traditional lifestyles and intangible cultural values.

# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

## 2. Practice, transfer, education

- Alsunga Secondary School involved in UNESCO Associated school's network
- Traditional instruments lessons in Alsunga kindergarten Miķelītis
- Integration of Suiti culture into Alsunga Music and Art School subjects
- Suiti traditional culture lessons «Suitu novadmācība» (4.-6.grade), including workshops in cooperation with ECC Suiti, local tours of Suiti region
- Elements of Suiti culture integrated in Alsunga Secondary School subjects (in Latvian language, history, geography, economics, music, visual arts, etc.)
- Folk group «Suitiņi» and dance group «Dzīpariņi» in Alsunga Secondary School



# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

## 2. Practice, transfer, education

Folk groups Suitu sievas, Gudenieku Suiti, Maģie suiti, Basu suiti

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=421406715806383>



# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

## 2. Practice, transfer, education

Folk groups Suitu vīri, Suitu dūdenieki, Suitu muzikanti, dance groups «Suiti» and «Jūrkalne»



# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

## 2. Practice, transfer, education

- Educational activities for Suitu dūdenieki (bagpipes making and playing workshops and lessons)
- Replenishment of folk costumes for Suitiņi, dance group «Dzīpariņi», Suitu sievas, Basu suiti, dance groups «Suiti», «Jūrkalne» etc.
- ECC Suiti organised traditional musical instrument *kokle* summer camps and concerts



[https://ltv.lsm.lv/lv/raksts/11.07.2020-suitos-avgust-kokles-speli.id191966/?fbclid=IwAR0KfILQ\\_aK1D7uilbkbox7YEELT2Vnz3v4NpOnYf55-8Z3YV1Zwg2MkmHc](https://ltv.lsm.lv/lv/raksts/11.07.2020-suitos-avgust-kokles-speli.id191966/?fbclid=IwAR0KfILQ_aK1D7uilbkbox7YEELT2Vnz3v4NpOnYf55-8Z3YV1Zwg2MkmHc)



# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

## 2. Practice, transfer, education

ECC Suiti activity – children summer camps «School of Suiti traditions»





# Implementation of Suits Cultural Space safeguarding plan

## 2. Practice, transfer, education

ECC Suits organised Seto-Suits children summer camps from 2014-2016 in EST-LAT project «Seto –Suits Renaissance» in Suits region and in Setomaa (Estonia)



# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

## 2. Practice, transfer, education

«Suiti wedding» - performed in Alsunga in Midsummer celebration Jāņi and in Rīga Open-air museum as part of Song and Dance celebration in 2018

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=es1HU42sbkQ>



# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

## 2. Practice, transfer, education

ECC Suiti organised dance summer camps for Suiti children «Mans prieks ir dejotprieks!»

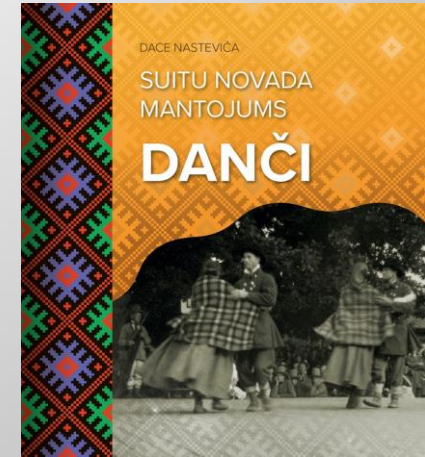


# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

## 2. Practice, transfer, education

ECC Suiti organised Suiti dance festival in Alsunga

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPztPDHeVEQ>



- Research and publication of traditional Suiti dances
- An exhibition on the suiti choreographic heritage and generations of dancers

# Implementation of Suti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

## 2. Practice, transfer, education

- Seminars and workshops for acquiring various knowledge and skills (weaving, making national costumes, Suti cuisine, etc.)



# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

## 2. Practice, transfer, education

International Drone-singing (Bourdon) festivals in 2004, 2007, 2010, 2014, 2017 organised by ECC Suiti [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUtCPwe4\\_aA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUtCPwe4_aA)



# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

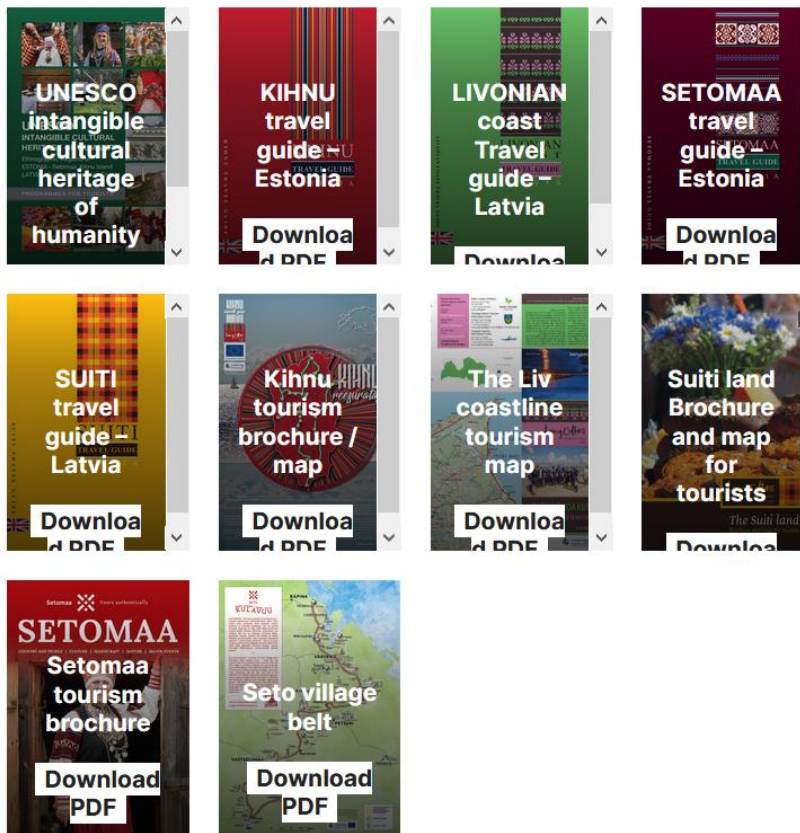
## 2. Practice, transfer, education



EU Est-Lat project «UNESCO tourism»

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wnZVx3e0-s>

Publications in English:

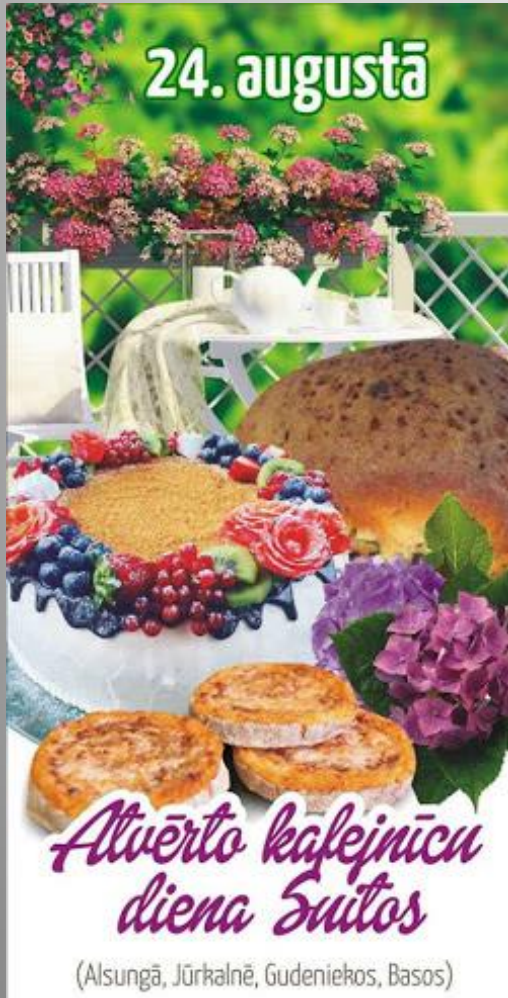


# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

## 2. Practice, transfer, education

EU Est-Lat project «UNESCO tourism» - open cafe days in Suiti region

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lw2LlgTwr70>





# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

## 2. Practice, transfer, education

EU Est-Lat project «UNESCO tourism» - exhibition «Suitu godi» in Basi cultural centre

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMqpDVVEhqU>



# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

## 2. Practice, transfer, education

Erasmus+ project «The network of UNESCO recognised elements»




  
ERASMUS+

EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME  
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS PROJECT  
**THE NETWORK OF UNESCO  
RECOGNISED VALUES**

EIROPAS KOMISIJAS PROGRAMMAS ERASMUS+  
STRATĒGISKO PARTNERĪBU PROJEKTS  
**UNESCO ATZĪTO VĒRTĪBU TĪKLS**

# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

## 2. Practice, transfer, education

Annual celebrations

<https://www.facebook.com/jurkalne/videos/546550722892926>



# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

## 2. Practice, transfer, education

Suiti exhibition in «Gāčas»

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EGcBx75VgsE>



# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

## 3. Entrepreneurship

**Aim: to use the creative potential of the Suiti cultural space for the development of new value-added products and services.**

3.1. Suiti craft and home production activities are promoted, supported and provided.

3.2. Development of cultural tourism based on Suiti traditions and skills.

3.3. Participation in actions, festivals, exhibitions, fairs, etc. of various scales and industries. To ensure the recognition and popularization of the Suiti cultural space, maintenance of the Suiti brand.

3.4. Ensuring the operation and development of digital infrastructure.



# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

## 3. Entrepreneurship



# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

## 4. Infrastructure

**Objective: to provide and maintain the necessary support infrastructure, in particular important cultural and historical monuments, objects and landscapes.**

4.1. Preservation, restoration and maintenance of Suiti churches and historical objects.

4.2. Restoration and development of Alsunga Castle, ensuring content corresponding to the Suiti cultural values in the castle complex.

4.3. Preservation of cultural and historical areas, monuments, buildings and significant objects.

4.4. Ensuring the accessibility of the Suiti cultural space. Road repair, road surface restoration, construction of asphalt roads.

4.5. Establishment, improvement and maintenance of nature and recreation parks and objects, which is necessary for the preservation of the cultural landscape characteristic of the Suiti cultural space.

# Implementation of Suiti Cultural Space safeguarding plan

## 4. Infrastructure

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YI88bx3rwYw>







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**Thank you for your attention!**



Alsunga, Latvia  
26.04.2021.