



LEADER
EESTI



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Fund
Kõrgema kvaliteedi tagamine
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The workshop „Winter in Soomaa – kicksled hike in Tõramaa“ took place on February 21st 2019.

Our aim was to gain access to a field of ice, enjoy exercise on one of the biggest meadows in Soomaa and listen to our guides Algis and Kaspar talk about what life in Soomaa entails and how the area can be used for tourism.

We had been waiting for the right „kicksled weather“ for a couple of months and were already losing hope, as there was not enough ice in January and then it melted completely, but then suddenly the hike became possible! The date of our workshop fell on the time when Halliste meadow was frozen for a couple of days.

One does not often get to go kicksledding on a blanket of ice in the middle of open water. The students participating in the project described it as “really cool!”

The rotating blanket of ice had risen to the surface from the bottom of the old Halliste river bed. During the previous lower flood, the river bed was filled with water and froze. The blanket of ice was perfect for kicksledding, but we had to climb over two canoes to get to it, as the ice on the meadow was too thin to walk on.

While the students were kicksledding on the meadow the guide told us how to practise tourism on such a terrain – kicksledding in winter, hiking in summer, and canoeing during floods; as Halliste meadow is one of the most frequently flooded areas in Soomaa they told us about the reasons of the floods and described how it progresses and what it entails; the students were encouraged to discuss the possibility of living in Soomaa throughout history and nowadays.

Three hours of kicksledding and hiking passed very quickly, the weather was beautiful, and the sunshine already had a touch of spring in it. We are grateful to Maigi for the soup and the pies she made for us for lunch.

A big thank you to the organizers and the participants!

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Erika Nõmm

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