

Sanita Rībena. Mana Jūra



SANITA RIBENA is a Latvian woman, a free spirit that has transformed her environmental vacation into her job. A graduate in philosophy, Sanita has always felt she needed to do something for the benefit of the society, and at the same time she's always had a profound sensitivity for the environment: "we are all part of nature, protecting it should be an instinct". But unfortunately she knows that it is not always like this: "the environment is not a priority for a lot of people, the first obstacle is in the people's mind". For this reason, Sanita started working at the Mana Jūra [My Sea] project in 2016, a project started in 2012 by the Foundation for Environmental Education, an international NGO.

The aim of this project is twofold: on one hand it promotes community sensitization and education towards environmental protection, on the other it organizes actual expeditions to clean the coast. Every July, their voluntaries start their journey from the Lithuanian border and go along almost 500km of the Latvian coast, cleaning it all the way up to Estonia. For Sanita it is a joy to see so many people that cooperate for such an important common good. In addition to collecting trash, the materials they collect are cataloged and analyzed, so that in the long run it is possible to individuate the main sources of pollution and work with the municipalities to prevent it and keep the sea and the beaches clean.

"We are all part of nature, protecting it is something natural and instinctive for me." - SANITA RIBENA

In particular, Sanita deals with public relations and with the distribution of information and data through social media. Her personal objective is to create a network that shares the same values about collective responsibility and care for the environment. Only then people will actually mobilize to make the place where they live better.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

PAS 🖪 💟 @LAPAS LV



AFD FP

This publication has been produced with the financial support from the Nordic Council of Ministers and the European Union. The content of this publication is the sole responsibility of Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Nordic Council of Ministers and the European Union.