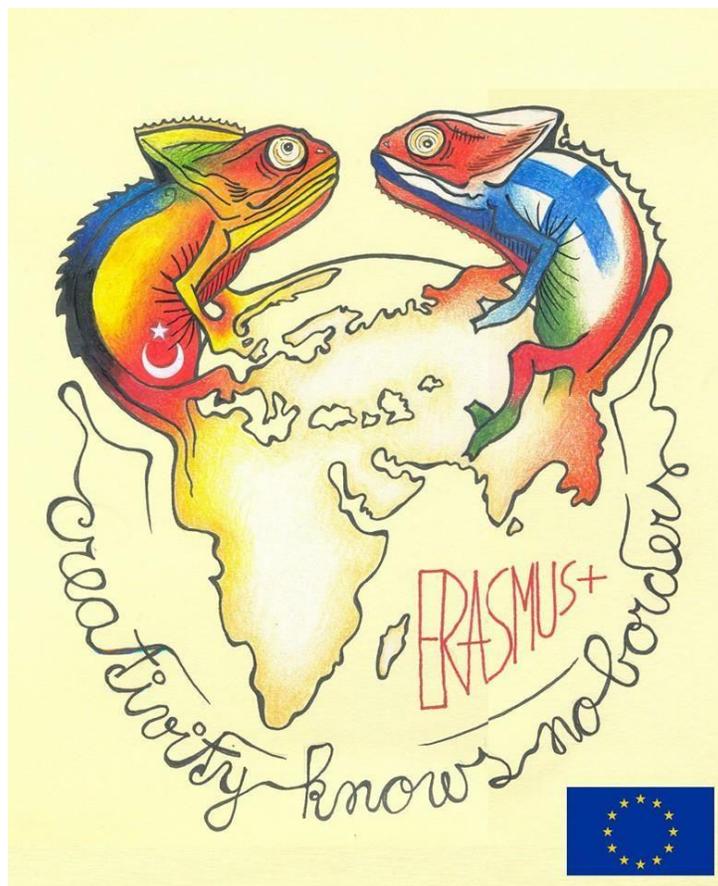


# KLAIPEDA **OLD TOWN** SCULPTURE TRAIL FOR BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE



Prepared for Erasmus+

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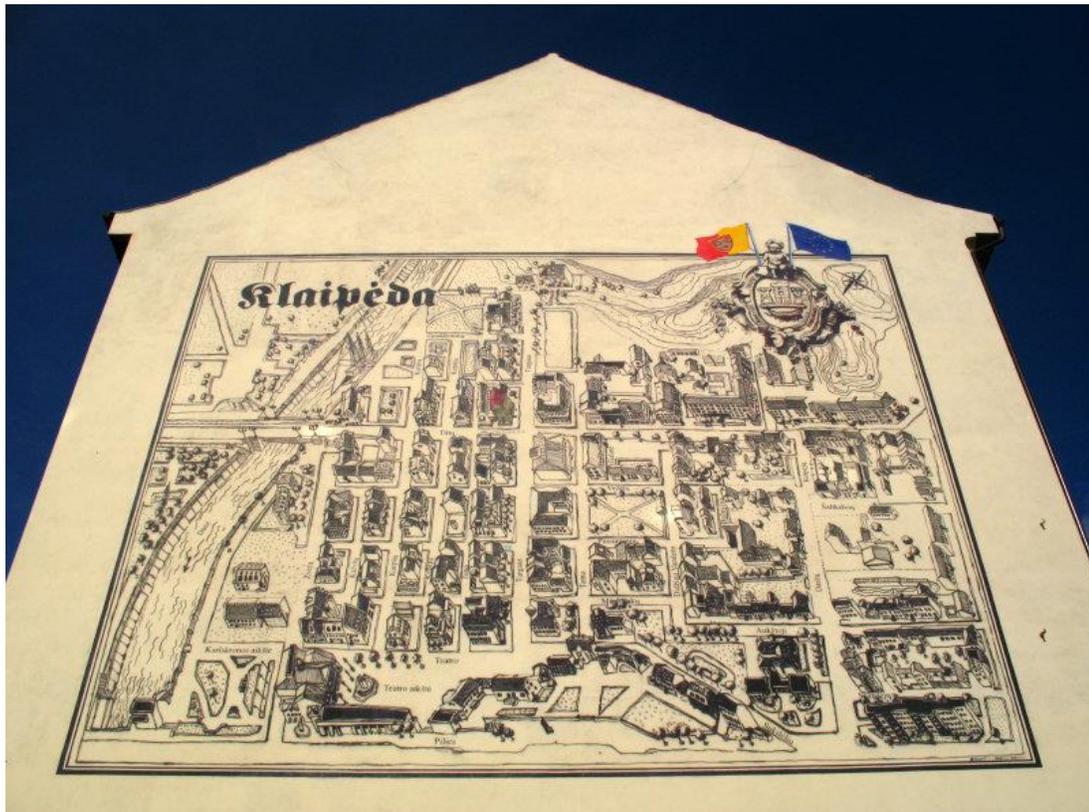
**KLAIPĖDOS LICĖJUS**

February 2017

## LIST OF SCULPTURES and LOCATIONS

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- Sculpture "The Dragon" – Vezeju Alley, Old Town of Klaipeda
- Sculpture "Old town cat" – Kalviu Street, Old Town of Klaipeda
- Sculpture "The Magical Mouse" – Kurpiu Street/Kepeju Street, Old Town of Klaipeda
- Sculpture "Chimney-Sweeper" – Turgaus Street, Old Town of Klaipeda
- Sculpture "The Little Mermaid" - On the right side of Dane River
- Sculpture "The Black Ghost" – Dane River bridge



# 1. Sculpture "The Dragon"

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This sculpture is coiled on the wall and is three and a half meters long. It is made of steel and was created by Vytautas Karčiauskas as a gift to the city. It evokes the legend of a swampy foot ("Klampi pėda") - one of the version of origins of the city's name. It was believed that in the beginning there were two twin brothers wandering in this area. One of the brothers was swallowed by a dragon. The dragon left a huge claw mark ("Klampi pėda" ) and flew away. The other brother remained and founded a city named Klaipėda. So the statue reminds us the origin of the city's name. The body of the sculpture is red with golden claws. The shape of the creature is thin and winding. It has no wings, but it has claws and a sharp beak. The creature's face is angry, its mouth is opened as if it is preparing to swallow somebody.



## 2. Sculpture "Old town cat"

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The granite and marble sculpture of a cat has been an object of attraction for many years. It is situated in Klaipėda Old Town's centre. The cat is extraordinary - it has a face of a gentleman. It was created by R. Midvikis in 1979. It has a long body, as well as a long tail. The citizens of Klaipėda believe, that if you stroke its tail, it can make your wish come true.

The cat is fixed onto the pavement. It is captured in a slow - paced posture as if having nowhere to hurry. The shape of a cat has rounded smooth angles, so it is very pleasant to stroke it. The statue brings happiness to everyone that sees it.



### 3. Sculpture" The Magical Mouse"

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In Klaipėda Old Town, in Kurpių street, a little mouse is settled down. The



sculpture is created by local artists S. Jurkus and S. Plotnikovas from their own funds. This bronze and stone creation is only 17 cm high. It's not a simple mouse. The little mouse is magical – it fulfills wishes! All you have to do is whisper your wishes and desires into its ear and they will come true!

If you come closer to the statue, you will notice a writing engraved onto it: “The mouse will turn your thoughts into words and the words will become miracles”.

The little mouse has to be very attentive and patient - it has to hear all wishes, that's why its ears are very large. It stands on two back legs, with front legs put together, patiently waiting for another whisperer. Its head is raised, waiting for a whisper and a kiss.



## 4. Sculpture "Chimney-Sweeper"

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A bronze statue "Chimney-sweeper" sits on the roof of "Fishermen pub" in Klaipeda Old Town. The statue is put on the roof of a high building to be visible from far away. Beneath there is a square where craft fairs take place. The purpose of the statue was to bring back happiness and attractiveness to the Old Town, to cheer up people and add warmth. The sculpture is quite big, about 2.3 metres high. The "chimney –sweeper" is dressed in a suit. He has a big hat on his head and a scarf folded around his neck with its loose ends waving in the air. In his right hand he is holding a short ladder. He keeps his left hand close to his mouth as if cheering citizens from high above the building.

Chimney sweepers used to mean extraordinary luck to those who happened to catch a glimpse of them. It is believed that touching even a button of a chimney sweeper will bring you luck. However, as there is no way of touching the sculpture (it being on a roof), a button of the chimney sweeper is embedded inside the wall of the building for those, who wish to take luck into their own hands.



## 5. Sculpture "The Little Mermaid"

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At Biržos bridge, on the right side of Danė river embankment the little ground is decorated by sculpture of „The Little Mermaid“, which is surfaced like to relax on trawls. The sculptural composition of marinistic theme „The Little Mermaid“ adorns Danė embankment from 15 January 2015. She has top of the woman body and tail like a fish, her tail of the little mermaid is decorated by coins of litas. Author of sculpture states that the little mermaid has magical powers – everybody having rubbed snake, tangled on her hands, can expect wishes come true. Sculpture of „The Little Mermaid“ is a gift of Lithuanian Maritime Academy to Klaipėda city.



## 6. Sculpture "The Black Ghost"

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According to one legend, in 1595, one of Klaipėda Castle guards, Hans von Heidi, saw a ghost. The mystical visitor warned the guard that the city's supplies of grain and timber may be running out, and with that, it vanished just as it had appeared. Sculpted by Svajunas Jurkus and Sergejus Plotnikovas, it depicts a hooded and robed ghostly figure climbing out of the murky water, pulling itself onto the dock, its long fingered hands protruding from its cloak gripping a lantern in one hand and the other resting as the creature pulls itself ashore.

