

NATREG newsletter

Dear readers,



Gregor Danev

01

December 2009

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I am proud to invite you all to read our project's first e-newsletter, which I hope you will find interesting and useful!

The NATREG project idea itself was born in the year 2007 when the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation and the members of the MATRIOSCA group came to realize that the development of regional economies had been putting increased pressure on the nature itself – not only in terms of sustainable development. On the other hand, more and more areas were devoted to nature conservation, however, with its limitations. Because of this devotion stakes are higher for all the stakeholders such as land owners, local and regional communities, associations, NGOs or generally all the tax payers. Consequently, protected areas were and still are mainly interpreted as an obstacle rather than a potential for sustainable regional development. The group recognized the conflict between stakeholders as one of the challenges for cooperation in the Adria-Alpe-Pannonia region.

The NATREG project deals with that challenge - promotion of the preserved nature as a driver of sustainable regional development and implementation of its potentials into the process of integrated management planning for protected areas. And what a challenge this is!

After six months on the project we are stepping into the year 2010 with good feelings and great expectations. Trough the preparation of the project in years 2008 and 2009, the firm transnational and multi-sectoral partnership was established, which is noticeable now when the project is in full swing.

We would like to express our thanks to all who contributed to the successful application and the first implementation achievements on the NATREG project.

Project NATREG team wishes you all a white Christmas and a happy New Year 2010!

Till next readings, develop with nature!

Gregor Danev,
NATREG project manager



*Participants on Kick-off Meeting in Koprivnica
photo: Silvana Petrović*

Kick-off Meeting

On 7 July, 2009 the kick-off meeting of the NATREG project partners was held at Koprivnica. The hosts of the meeting were the Public Institute for Spatial Planning of the Koprivnica-Križevci County and the Public Institution for the Management of Protected Natural Values in the Area of the Koprivnica-Križevci County. The prefect of the Koprivnica-Križevci County, Darko Koren, welcomed all the present.

This meeting also formally confirmed that the project had passed all the procedures within the Transnational Program for Southeast Europe (SEE), so that its implementation could have begun. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following institutions: the Institute of Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia, REC Ljubljana, Veneto Region, Territorial Planning dept. and ARPA - Regional Agency for the Prevention of the Environment of the Emilia-Romagna Region, the provinces of Carinthia and Styria, the University of Klagenfurt, and Vojvodinašume.

At the meeting, partners' expectations regarding the project were presented. The project manager, Gregor Danev, representative of the Lead Partner, explained in detail how the work and the activities will be carried out during the 28-month period of the project implementation. Milena Marega from REC presented the plan for communication and dissemination, while Amela Smajić Hodžić from IRSNC presented the project management and administrative procedures. The partners agreed on six pilot areas which will be designated to apply the management plan. The meeting was successful.

Mladen Matica, M. Sc.





*Field trip - Lovrenška jezera
photo: Mateja Nose Marolt*

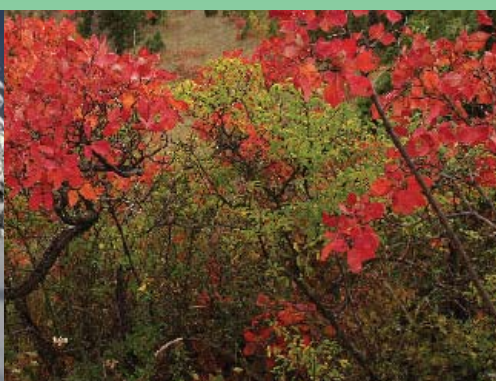
Initial Conference

In association with NATREG project partners, the Institute of RS for Nature Conservation organized the Initial conference held in Zreče and Rogla on September 16–17, 2009. Symbolically, the project was opened by Petra Majdič, a world-class athlete and nature conservation ambassador. At the conference, participants presented goals and main activities, anticipated results and effects of the NATREG project as well as examples of good practice and experience related to the management of protected areas in other countries.

The challenge of »Development with nature«, addressed by the project, is highly important – this was unanimously confirmed by high state representatives Ass. Prof. Darij Krajčič, Ph. D., Director General of the Environment Directorate, and Mirjam Galčič Ph. D., acting director of the Institute of the RS for Nature Conservation, as well as by Boris Podvršnik, mayor of Zreče Municipality, and other representatives of local community, development agencies and tourism organizations in the Pohorje project area. The opening conference also spurred the discussion on supporting project partners in the development of an appropriate approach to the management of protected areas.

Participants of the conference visited the Zreško Pohorje area, a good example where nature conservation and development are trying to work hand in hand.

Blanka Koron





Minister Karl Erjavec giving the interview

NATREG stand
photo: Urša Pestotnik

Presentation at the Nature-Health fair in Ljubljana

The Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation presented the NATREG project at Nature-Health Fair in Ljubljana (Slovenia).

The opening of the jubilee, 40th Nature-Health Fair was on Thursday, 1 October 2009. The fair was officially opened by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Republic of Slovenia, Milan Pogačnik, Ph.D., and the Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia, Mr. Karl Erjavec. Both ministries are honorary sponsors of Nature-Health Fair and actively participate at the fair.

Work done in the NATREG project was presented, as well as nature conservation activities in Slovenia, and projects in which the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation participates. Visitors asked many different questions, shared their opinions and suggestions.

At our stand questionnaires on the project pilot area Pohorje were fulfilled by visitors of the fair. In total, 628 questionnaires were collected. Position of the general public on the project area and the proposed Regional Park was gathered. Questionnaires were analyzed and a study is being prepared to help with further project activities related to the Pohorje project area.

As the NATREG project cooperates with Danubeparks project (also financed by SEE Program), its promotion material was presented at our stand as well.

Mateja Nose Marolt





Director of SUME Mrs. Marta Takač and Gregor Danev



Field trip Deliblato Sands
photo: Jurij Gulič, Nika Debeljak Šabec

Consultation in Vojvodina

Within the NATREG project one part of the activities of PE "Vojvodinasume" was held during the period from 25 to 27 November. Namely, PE "Vojvodinasume" hosted colleagues from the Slovenian Institute for Nature Conservation within their 3-day visit.

On 25 November 2009, in Novi Sad, with logistic support of the Chamber of Commerce of Vojvodina, the NATREG project was presented to the Serbian wider public. The presentation was opened by PE director Mrs Marta Takac and the NATREG project manager Mr Gregor Danev. The presentations that followed presented the concept and the importance of the project, as well as the role of PE "Vojvodinasume" in the project. The Slovenian experience in connecting forestry and nature conservation branches was also presented.

The presentation was attended by representatives of numerous relevant institutions and media. The NATREG project was also presented at the local level, in Special Nature Reserve "Deliblato Sands", which is one of six pilot sites of the project. Participants that attended the presentation held on 26 November came from Pančevo Municipality, Forest Estate Banat, nearby protected areas management authority, local NGOs, etc.

Besides the project presentation, the working part of the visit included an analysis of management of Special Nature Reserve "Deliblato Sands", review of programs and plans, problems, development possibilities, etc. Both partners agreed on the following steps, e.g. the preparation of relevant studies. The last day of Slovenian colleagues' visit included a field visit to several locations of Deliblato Sands.

Ivana Grujicic, M.Sc.





photo: Archive ARPA

Presentations in Italy

NATREG presented at two outstanding conferences on Protected Areas.

On 9 November 2009, the Universities of Macerata, Sassari and Camerino organized in Visso, at the Congress Room of Sibillini National Park, the roundtable "Italian Protected Areas, reaching the 2100 vision: strategies and actions. New Organizational and Planning Perspectives."

This meeting was organized in order to discuss the future of the Italian Protected Areas System and, with this regard, the NATREG project was presented to the broad public. The result of the roundtable was the subscription of an appeal in order to create effective coordination among protected areas and to develop forms of shared management, in line with NATREG main objectives. Another relevant item taken into consideration during the meeting concerned the socio-economic development policies which are in favor of (and not against) the nature and biodiversity conservation.

On 10–13 November, the UNESCO Office for Science and Culture in Europe, located in Venice-Regional Bureau, and the MAB Secretariat organized in Syracuse (Sicily) the international seminar "Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves in the Mediterranean: Models for Sustainable Development", cooperating with the Italian Ministry for Environment, Territory and Sea, the Consorzio Plemmirio Marine Protected Area and the Italian National Commission for UNESCO.

The biosphere reserve (BR) concept proved its value beyond PAs and was taken more into consideration by scientists, planners, policy makers and local communities. It is useful to bring a variety of knowledge, scientific investigations and experiences to link biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development for human well-being. The seminar explored topics of common interest according to the examples and the experiences of BR sites in the Mediterranean. During the seminar, the protected area of the Po Delta and the main topics of NATREG were presented, while the Po Delta river area was proposed to become a BR.

Marco Meggiolaro





photo: Jurij Gulič, Amela Smajič Hodžič

Workshop in Ruše

In December 2009, a workshop in Ruše, entitled "Development opportunities for Eastern Pohorje", was organized by the Institute of Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation (Project NATREG LP) along with the Municipality of Ruše and the Maribor Development Agency.

With this workshop, activities involving participation of the stakeholders in the target area of Pohorje began, while further workshops will take place at the regional level where groups of stakeholders with proactive thinking on development components in the area will be set up.

The workshop's objectives were informing stakeholders about the NATREG project, review of the national spatial development framework of Pohorje, introduction with the ideas/opportunities for sustainable development of the area through a variety of project ideas and presentation of examples of good practice from Slovenia and abroad, and last but not least, invitation to all stakeholders to join workshops in the further planning process.

In his introduction, the Mayor of the Municipality of Ruše stressed out a need for multidisciplinary, networked development projects and expressed a view that efforts have to be made to find compromises made by the spatial planning, nature, environment, and heritage along with the agreement from the local environment. Development ambitions must be checked out and should not be subordinated to gainful motives. It is necessary to consider the sustainable social, economic and environmental components, in order to develop the economy and the local environment.

In course of the workshop seven interesting lectures were given. Throughout the presentations a need for regional and local integration was clearly exposed. New development opportunities and networking project ideas are only two ways how to gain improvement in Pohorje; and we owe it that much.

Jurij Gulič, Ph. D.





Participants MPA course 2007



photo: Archive the University of Klagenfurt

MSc course in “Management of Protected Areas”

„Gain access to an attractive and future-oriented occupational field with a two-year postgraduate education and training”

In September 2009 the University of Klagenfurt (Austria) has launched the third Master of Science course on the “Management of Protected Areas”. The curriculum covers ecological, economic and socio-cultural subjects and the development of personal skills necessary to plan, consult and manage protected areas. It was developed in cooperation with organisations like the IUCN, UNESCO, EUROPARC, ALPARC, WWF, PAN Parks and secretaries of CBD and Ramsar Convention. Experienced lecturers and international classmates guarantee an exciting time. The course is organised in 9 modules (70 days of course attendance either as classes or excursions) supported by e-learning units. The classes take place at the University of Klagenfurt and selected protected areas of Central, South and Eastern Europe. In order to qualify for admission, potential students need to hold a university degree, have a good working knowledge of English and demonstrate interest in the topic.

Launched in 2005, the course has already become an internationally well-established hub for the training of integrated management of protected areas. Become part of this expanding network and apply until 30.12.2008. Tuition fee is EUR 12.400 (limited scholarship funds available for students from low-income Central and Eastern European and developing countries). We look forward to hearing from you!

Daniel Zollner



Who are NATREG partners?



REGIONE del VENETO



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
Slovenia



AGNATURE



VOJVODINAŠUME



In this issue we present two project partners:

The Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation (IRSNC)

IRSNC is a professional national institution for nature protection. It was founded in 1999 upon the proclamation of the Nature Conservation Act (NCA) and formally began to operate in January 2002. 80 employees work in seven regional units that cover the entire Slovene territory.

Our primary vocation is to preserve Slovene nature, where a special care of our Institute, as of a public service and with public authorization, is dedicated to the best preserved, precious and most endangered areas as far as nature conservation is concerned. In the implementation of our activities we strive for professionalism, objectivity, constructive dialogue and establishment of the best possible relations with all stakeholders.

The Institute embarked on several projects, both as a coordinator and a partner. The work and results of the projects supplement other regular Institute's work. By implementing the projects, the Institute has shown, on very concrete cases, what sustainable development in practise means.

With the work on other projects, the Institute managed to transfer the nature conservation issues to the widest, notably local areas and thus to greatly affect the development course of local environments. In this way, the results of the Institute's work are being transferred also to the regional, national and international levels.

In NATREG project, IRSNC has a role of a Lead partner. As stated in editorial, IRSNC perceived great potential in NATREG project toward sustainable management of protected areas and development opportunities.

As Lead partner, IRSNC cooperates in all work packages (WP) of the project and is also a responsible partner for WP1 and WP3.

NATREG team consist of eight co-workers; along with project manager Gregor Danev, there are Amela Smajič Hodžič, Mateja Kocjan, Maruša Danev and Mateja Nose Marolt all working in the Central unit and Jurij Gulič, Matjaž Jež and Andreja Senegačnik working in the Maribor regional unit.



Study visit of Regional park Škocjanske caves, photo: Archive IRSNC

The Regional Environmental Center, Country Office Slovenia (REC Slovenia)

The Regional Environmental Center, Country Office Slovenia (abbreviated REC Slovenia) The Regional Environmental Center, Country Office Slovenia (abbreviated REC Slovenia).

The REC Slovenia was established in 1994 as a branch office of an international organisation whose mission is to assist in solving environmental problems in Central and Eastern Europe.

Majority of the organisation's capacities and work are dedicated to support of sustainable development in Slovenia, mainly through capacity building of environmental stakeholders, information dissemination and supporting public participation in environmental decision-making.

REC's areas of excellence are:

- Introducing new trends in sustainable development policy-making in Slovenia and implementation of international conventions and environmental legislation;
- Multi-stakeholder dialogue, supporting the partnership principle and public participation;
- Communication and dissemination activities.

REC's role in the NATREG project is related to communication and stakeholders engagement. Besides developing of the communication strategy and coordinating communication at project level, the REC's experts will prepare the strategy and the guidelines for stakeholders engagement in protected areas management planning process.

Four members of the REC staff that are directly involved in project implementation are honoured to participate in NATREG mainly as it offers an opportunity for our contribution towards more sustainable use of natural resources, towards better involvement of local inhabitants and other stakeholders, and towards more sustainable practice in protected areas.



photo: Archive REC

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