

NATREG team at Deliblato Sands Educational Center during the site visit of the pilot area.

NATREG *final* newsletter

Dear readers!

After 28 months our project is coming to an end. We wish to extend our greatest thanks to each and everyone of you who contributed to the fulfillment of project's objectives and to creating such pleasant working atmosphere. The project's main objective was to establish transnational cross-sectoral cooperation and to prepare a Joint Strategy for Integrated Management Plans of Protected Areas, which consists of 5 documents/publications: *Introductory Handbook, Guidelines for Economic Evaluation of Natural Assets, Guidelines for Preparation of a PA Business Plan, Guidelines on Stakeholder Engagement in the Preparation of Integrated Management Plans for Protected Areas and Guidelines for Regional, Interregional and Cross-border Development Strategies Creating Ecological corridors.*

The project partners implemented more than 100 trainings, presentations, workshops and other events, all with an intention to establish a constructive dialogue with key stakeholders from a certain protected areas. The result of these efforts are 5 draft Management plans for 5 pilot areas – from Pohorje in Slovenija, to Delta Po River Parks in Italy, Vellacher Kotschna in Austria, regional park Mura-Drava in Croatia and Deliblato Sands in Serbia.

It was a great pleasure working with you. Until we meet again one way or the other - develop with nature!

NATREG team



Deliblato Sands



Styria



Regional park Mura-Drava



Delta Po River Parks



Pohorje



Vellacher Kotschna

NATREG partners



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ZA VARNOST NARAVE

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NATREG project finishing with exceeded results

It was in spring 2009 when the NATREG project officially started. After 28 months, successfully completed tasks and more then achieved objectives we took our goodbyes at the final conference in Novi Sad at the end of June 2011.

The host of the conference was NATREG project partner Public Enterprise Vojvodinašume, so the conference was officially opened by Marta Takač, director of PE Vojvodinašume, who expressed great satisfaction with the project's results and thanked the employees of PE Vojvodinašume for a real quality work they have done and also to the wider partnership.

Opening day, June 22nd, was attended by important guests: Minister of Republic of Slovenia for Environment and Spatial Planning Roko Žarnić, PhD.; Serbian Minister of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning Oliver Dulić; Vice-President of the Executive Council of Autonomous Province of Vojvodina Istvan Pastor; director of The Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation Darij Krajčič, PhD., and Head of the Project Development and Management Unit of the Joint Technical Secretariat of the South East Europe (JTS). Ivan Curzolo. In their opening addresses, they all highlighted the success of the partnership involved in the project, and the overall importance of the project for Serbia. Project Manager Gregor Danev from The Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation, project's lead partner, summed up the whole NATREG story and presented the results. We concluded the first day of the conference under the influence of a number of positive opinions and praise that NATREG project had received. The 2nd day of the conference was mainly dedicated to the presentation of results from pilot areas.



After the official part of the conference a site visit to the pilot area Special nature reserve Deliblato sands was organized to learn more about the "European Sahara". And we were really impressed by the uniqueness of this sand oasis and the richness of its flora and fauna. We also traveled by boat on the the river Donava to the location where it is 8 kilometres wide and had an opportunity to see the amazing Ramsar site Labudovo okno.

On the last day of the event we visited Vršac city, an interesting old town near to the Romanian border, and visited a few of the wine cellars on the so called Vršac wine route; namely, there is a rich and exciting tradition of growing grapes and traditional wine making in this area.

At the end of it all we were a bit sad about the project's ending but we returned home filled with ideas and plans for further cooperation.

