



Bulgaria-Serbia IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO006

Project number: 2007CB16IPO006-2009-1-104
Project name: NEW TOURIST CHALLENGES IN DUPNITSA-VRANJE REGION – A WAY TO NEW FUTURE

Project partners:
▪ **Lead partner:** Municipality of Dupnitsa, Bulgaria
▪ **Project partner 2:** The city of Vranje, Serbia

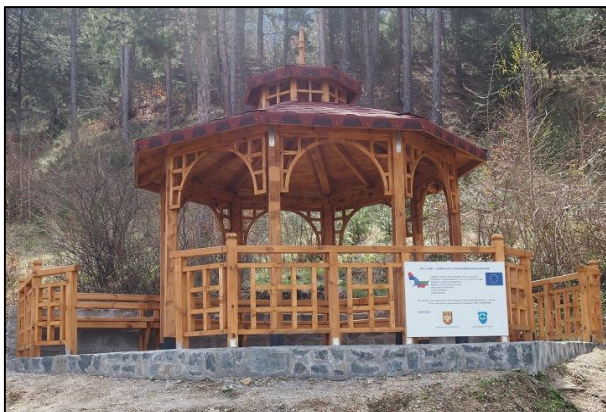
Budget: 594 272,92 Euro
Project duration: 18 months

Project description:

The overall objective of the project was to strengthen territorial cohesion of Dupnitsa-Vranje region through measures focused on achieving competitiveness and sustainable development in tourist and environmental areas. The project achieved the following results:

- Establishment of Eco lodge “Samokovishte” – An abandoned mountain lodge at the end of eco path was reconstructed and equipped as an eco-lodge. It is situated at the Dupnitsa access to Rila Mountain through the village of Bistritsa, which is an alternative route to the “Seven Rila Lakes”. In addition, the lodge contain a special “experience room” which provides interactive approach to the presentation of natural beauty and biodiversity of Rila Mountain;
- Creation of an eco-path and construction of small scale infrastructure along the route. The trace of the eco-path is: the village of Bistrica - Orlovi skali – Viatarni skali – Bistrishki vodopad – Eco-lodge Samokovishteto. Also the access to the eco-path was improved through rehabilitation of the existing road and parking lot at the village of Bistrica;
- Establishment of Eco Guards Unit – a specialized Eco guard unit was established in the municipality of Dupnitsa for monitoring the mountain region for eventual accidents and coping with emergency situations;
- Establishment of Tourist Presentation Centre in Vranje – A special hall of the public company “Skijaliste Besna Kobila” was equipped to serve as a tourist presentation center;
- Creation of a model of Besna Kobila Mountain with detailed routes and facilities as a replica of the real mountain. The model is displayed at the tourist presentation centre
- Implementation of a comprehensive promotional campaign including creation of a promotional video, organization of a final press conference, and distribution of promotional materials.

The project was successfully completed in January 2013.



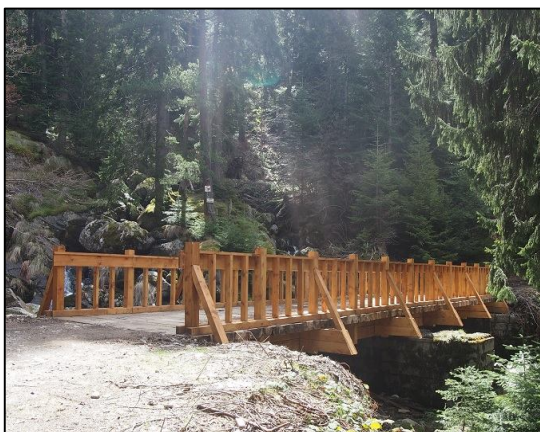
The renovated eco-lodge “Samokovishte” and one of the resting lodges along the eco-path



The Programme is co-funded by the
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Details from the eco-path including resting places, information boards and even a bridge



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