

Newsletter

Green Mountain

A Sustainable Development Model
for Green Mountain Areas

No. 1 | July 2011

Green Mountain Background

Mountain territories are important ecosystems exposed to a series of risks and threats: abandonment, use of inappropriate development models, lack of an integrated sustainable approach, loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems.

To meet these challenges GREEN MOUNTAIN, a European project approved under the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme, will develop and transfer a Sustainable Development and Management Model which can provide an integrated strategy to enhance the preservation and valorisation of mountain areas.

The project idea is based on a series of problems experienced by the Lead Partner and Project Partners: depopulation, viability of economic sustainable activities, interrelation between protected/non protected areas, necessity to integrate human presence/activity within protected areas and lack of coordinated management among the different mountain communities. These factors contribute to natural degradation and loss of



biodiversity today. The complexity of the problem resulted in the search for complementary Project Partners experiencing similar problems to find common solutions at European level. It showed that the same problems were experienced by many other mountain territories. With a bottom-up approach, based on real and concrete local needs, 11 strategic Project Partners were involved, whereby common discussion and negotiation about problems, needs, priorities and expected outcomes resulted in the agreement to jointly develop a common Sustainable Development and Management Model. Through joint forces the Project Partners developed a draft proposal together, which then was subject for further discussion, at e.g. a preparatory meeting held in Italy, before being finally submitted in the framework of the SEE Programme. The project development process reflected strong partnership commitment and joint project development.

Project activities are also foreseen to be implemented in the territory of Chernivtsi region (Ukraine) to enlarge the test and application field.

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News & Upcoming Events

2nd SC-meeting of the Green Mountain project will take place on the 20-21 September 2011 in Bulgaria. The project's 3 transnational Working Groups, responsible for the development of the "Sustainable Development and Management Model" will then meet for the first time to launch their common work. The event will be hosted by the Regional Administration Smolyan.

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Project Cooperation and Activities

To meet the project challenges a transnational project team, consisting of 11 organisations from 9 countries, will develop and transfer a Sustainable Development and Management Model which can provide an integrated strategy to enhance the preservation and valorisation of mountain areas.

Common work around 3 thematic areas will take place:

- a) identification of economic activities compatible with sustainable development of mountain territories;
- b) development of coordinated and integrated policies/management plans;
- c) methods and strategies for information, training and awareness raising.

Four action phases will be implemented to guarantee concrete results which can be transferred to each partner/territory and beyond:

- 1) Exchange of information, experiences and the identification of European good practices;
- 2) Development of a Sustainable Development and Management Model through 3 Working Groups;
- 3) The drawing up of Management Plans and carrying out territorial concertation involving decision-makers and economic actors, and;

4) Test & transfer of the Model/Management Plans through e.g. mainstreaming workshops, pilot actions and awareness raising targeting decision-makers, economic actors and the public in general.

This will result in a better capacity of decision-makers to coordinate and manage sensitive areas, improved capabilities of economic actors to invest in appropriate economic sectors, public participation through improved awareness of the natural value of the territory and ultimately, territories with enhanced biodiversity and valorisation of natural resources.

The project outputs consists, amongst others, of the integrated Sustainable Development and Management Model, 9 Management Plans, an Online Platform and a Mountain Network.

GREEN MOUNTAIN	
Title (Index No. & Acronym)	A Sustainable Development Model for GREEN MOUNTAIN areas (GREEN MOUNTAIN – SEE/B/0012/2.3/X)
Programme	South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 – 2° Call
Priority axis 2	Protection and improvement of the environment
Area of Intervention 2.3	Promote cooperation in management of natural assets and protected areas
Duration	1 January 2011 – 31 December 2013
Overall Budget	Total budget: 2.138.500 € - ERDF: 1.647.725 € / IPA: 170.000 € - National co-financing: 320.775 €

Project Target Groups

The target groups of the project are:

- A) Politicians, decision-makers and organisations responsible for planning and management of sensitive and protected mountain areas to enable strategic decisions and actions on territorial management.
- B) Economic actors in order to generate economic interest, action and sustainable economic development, involved through the concertation process and pilot actions including seminars, training modules and the setting up of new economic activities.
- C) Mountain Communities/the Public for raised awareness of the natural value of the territory and for increased territorial identity, involved through info days and awareness raising campaigns.

These target groups will not only be informed, but through the specific project activities they will take active part to guarantee concrete transfer and promotion of the common Model and project outcomes.

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SOUTH EAST EUROPE Programme

A PROGRAMME FOR A EUROPEAN AREA IN TRANSITION ON THE WAY TO INTEGRATION

The South East Europe Programme aim is to develop transnational partnerships on matters of strategic importance, in order to improve the territorial, economic and social integration process and to contribute to cohesion, stability and competitiveness of the region. For this purpose, the Programme seeks to realize high quality, result oriented projects of strategic character, relevant for the programme area.

The South East Europe Programme helps to promote better integration between the Member States, candidate and potential candidate countries and neighbouring countries. Regional cooperation in South East Europe is essential, regardless of the different stage of integration of the various countries. The stability, prosperity and security of the region are of significant interest to the EU.

www.southeast-europe.net

Global Objective

The programme's global objective is to improve the territorial, economic and social integration process in South East Europe and contribute to cohesion, stability and competitiveness of the area through the development of transnational partnerships and joint action on matters of strategic importance.

The global and specific objectives of the Operational Programme is pursued through Priority Axes (PA), which contribute differently to the specific programme objectives:

- PA 1: Facilitation of innovation and entrepreneurship
- PA 2: Protection and improvement of the environment
- PA 3: Improvement of the accessibility
- PA 4: Development of transnational synergies for sustainable growth areas



The South East Europe Programme Area includes 16 countries: Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy*, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine*

*only some of its region

Source: SEE programme website

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Project Launch – GREEN MOUNTAIN project

The thematic activities of Green Mountain were officially launched at the 1st Steering Committee meeting that took place on the 24th-25th May 2011 in the territory of the Green Mountain project leader – Province of Macerata. The agenda of the SC-meeting included an overall presentation of the project and detailed discussion on project activities. The first results of the Existing Situation Analysis (ESA) and Good Practices (GP), part of the first action phase “exchange of information, experience and Good Practices” of the Green Mountain project, were shared among project partners. With regards to the ESA, partners presented their own territory, existing and potential economic sustainable activities and products, methods and strategies for coordinated management policies and plans and, methods and strategies for information, training and awareness raising.

With regards to the Good Practice presentation, the responsible project partner – Agricultural Research and Raumberg–Gumpenstein (AREC) presented some examples of Good Practices implemented in mountain territories that could be included in the Good Practice report.

The action phase “exchange of information, experience and Good Practices” is continuing and partners are now finalising their work which will finally be shared at the next SC-meeting planned in September 2011.

[cronachemaceratesi.it](http://www.cronachemaceratesi.it) <http://www.cronachemaceratesi.it/2011/05/28/concluso-a-macerata-il-primo-meeting-%E2%80%9C>

Concluso a Macerata il primo meeting “Green Mountain”

0Email0

sabato 28 maggio 2011 - Ore 22:00 - 197 letture

La Provincia di Macerata, quale ente capofila e promotore, insieme al parco nazionale dei Monti Sibillini, di un programma di cooperazione tra Paesi del sud-est Europa, ha ospitato il primo meeting internazionale del progetto “Green Mountain”.

Finanziato per oltre due milioni di euro dalla Commissione Europea, il progetto riguarda l'individuazione di azioni di sviluppo sostenibile nelle aree naturali, montane e protette. Si svilupperà nell'arco di un triennio ed oltre alla Provincia di Macerata vede cooperare undici partner tra regioni, enti locali ed istituti di ricerca di Austria, Ungheria, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovacchia, Montenegro, Bosnia e Grecia.

Nel corso del meeting ogni partecipante ha illustrato la situazione esistente nei rispettivi contesti locali in ambito ambientale-montano a cui ha fatto seguito un approfondimento delle tematiche relative al monitoraggio, pianificazione e promozione delle attività progettuali con una suddivisione dei ruoli e delle responsabilità da parte di ciascun ente partner. Per il territorio maceratese figurano, ad esempio, anche lo sviluppo di azioni volte a qualificare l'agriturismo e un'iniziativa per diffondere e disciplinare sui Monti Sibillini la coltivazione della “Genziana”, pianta officinale utilizzata pure come aromatizzante in alcuni prodotti realizzati da una antica e famosa distilleria, apprezzata e conosciuta in Italia e all'estero. Durante il meeting maceratese sono stati costituiti anche tre gruppi di lavoro che si occuperanno di tematiche riguardanti la protezione e la valorizzazione delle aree montane. In occasione del prossimo meeting, in programma a fine settembre in Bulgaria, i tre gruppi presenteranno una prima proposta rispettivamente per quanto riguarda attività e prodotti sostenibili dal punto di vista economico; metodi di gestione coordinata ed integrata; strategie per l'informazione e la formazione.



Transnational project team



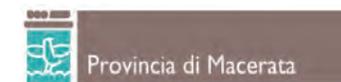
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Project Lead Partner

Provincia di Macerata
Province of Macerata



Country: Italy

Geographic level of activities: regional

Thematic field of activities: cultural landscape development, land use management, traditional economic activities and tourism; environmental education and research

The Province of Macerata is a local public authority with competences and expertise in spatial planning, economic development, agriculture, tourism and environmental protection.

In particular, it manages the regional Protected Areas (PAs) in its territory, the network Natura 2000 (adoption of conservation measures and management plans in collaboration with its municipalities) and it deals with conservation, protection and management of natural wild fauna. Its territory is largely mountainous (Apennines), an important part of it also includes the Monti Sibillini National Park.

The Province of Macerata consists of 57 municipalities and 3 mountain communities (Mountain community of San Severino, Mountain community of Monti Azzurri, Mountain community of Camerino).

Province of Macerata, Italy



List of Project Partners and Short Project Partners Presentations

Official name in English	Abbreviation	Country	website
Province of Macerata	Province of Macerata	Italy	www.provincia.mc.it
Monti Sibillini National Park	MSNP	Italy	www.sibillini.net
Multifunctional Association of the Municipalities of Kőszeg Microregion	Kőszeg Microregion	Hungary	www.koszegikisterseg.hu
Agricultural Research and Education Centre Raumberg- Gumpenstein	AREC	Austria	www.raumberg-gumpenstein.at
Regional Administration Smolyan	Region of Smolyan	Bulgaria	www.region-smolyan.org
National Forest Administration	NFA	Romania	www.rosilva.ro
Region of Epirus	Region of Epirus	Greece	www.roe.gr
Slovak Environmental Agency	SEA	Slovakia	www.sazp.sk
Soelktaeler Nature Park GmbH	Soelktaeler Nature Park	Austria	www.soelktaeler.at
Ministry of Civil Engineering and Physical Planning of HNC	HNC	Bosnia and Herzegovina	www.vlada-hnz-k.ba
Municipality of Pljevlja	Municipality of Pljevlja	Montenegro	www.pljevlja.in

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ERDF Partners

Parco Nazionale dei Monti Sibillini
Monti Sibillini National Park



Country: Italy

Geographic level of activities: national

Thematic field of activities: conservation and valorisation of the historical, cultural and natural heritage; integrity of natural environment, traditional economic activities and tourism; environmental education and research

Monti Sibillini National Park, Italy



The Monti Sibillini National Park (MSNP) is a public authority - controlled directly by the Ministry of Environment and Territory. It was founded in 1993, as part of the Apennines, covers a territory of 70.000 hectares. MSNP is an important mosaic of natural habitats which are home to over 60 species of Community Interest. There are 18 pSCI (proposed Sites of Community Interests) and 5 SPAs (Special Protected Areas) that cover 77% of the whole surface

and in addition, there are 21 semi/natural habitats of European Community Interest, of which 9 are priority habitats. Thus, the territory of MSNP includes natural and seminatural landscapes of high conservation value and it is an important ecologic corridor for many animal species of the Apennines. The mission of the park is: Conservation and valorisation of the historical, cultural and natural heritage.

Kőszeg Város és Vonzáskörzete Többcélú Kistérségi Társulása
Multifunctional Association of the Municipalities of Kőszeg Microregion



Country: Hungary

Geographic level of activities: micro-regional

Thematic field of activities: regional development, public education, educational service, social service, children welfare, providing mobile library, inner controlling and monitoring, public procurement tasks, central medical activities, district nurse service, waste management tasks, micro-regional plan council's administration and operating, micro-regional chief architect's application

Multifunctional Association of the Municipalities of Kőszeg Microregion, Hungary



The association was formed on 24 June 2004. The members of the association: Bozsok, Cák, Gyöngyösfalu, Horvátzsidány, Kiszsidány, Kőszeg, Kőszegdoroszló, Kőszegpaty, Kőszegszerdahely, Lukácsháza, Nemescső, Ólmod, Peresznye, Pusztacsó, Velem. The municipalities

are belonging to a micro-region because of the intention that public utility services need to be handled on a higher vocational and joint standard. The organs of the association: association council, president, financial and educational commissions, administrative department.

Lehr- und Forschungszentrum für Landwirtschaft Raumberg-Gumpenstein
Agricultural Research and Education Centre Raumberg-Gumpenstein



Country: Austria

Geographic level of activities: national, international

Thematic field of activities: cultural landscape development, agricultural research, land use management, rural development

Agricultural Research and Education Centre Raumberg-Gumpenstein, Austria



The Agricultural Research and Education Centre Raumberg-Gumpenstein (AREC) is a research entity of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW – <http://www.lebensministerium.at>). It is well-positioned in the research area of cultural landscape, grassland ecology and organic farming. The strategic aim is to develop alternative systems for landscape protection and conservation and to develop indicators for an ecologically sound development of cultural landscapes, especially in mountain regions.

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Областна Администрация - Смолян
Regional Administration Smolyan



Country: Bulgaria

Geographic level of activities: regional

Thematic field of activities: infrastructure development, sustainable environmental protection, civil protection, development of the tourism using natural and cultural – historical heritage on the territory of the region, coordination between the national and local institutions, planning and management

Regional Administration Smolyan, Bulgaria



The Regional Administration Smolyan is established as legal entity on budget subsidy with Decision №45/01.02.1999 of the Council of Ministers. It consists of 10 municipalities. The Regional Administration is managed and presented by the Regional Governor. This institution implements the state policy on the regional level and coordinates with the local authorities. The area of Region Smolyan is at the Greek border and this is the reason one of the main activities of the Regional Administration to be

cooperation with Greek Authorities and participating in the EU Programme of Trans Border Cooperation Bulgaria-Greece. A priority branch is the development of tourism, where there are possibilities for an increase in the number of tourists through diversifying the offered forms of tourism such as winter - the most popular winter resort Pamporovo.

Regia Nationala a Padurilor-Romsilva
National Forest Administration



Country: Romania

Geographic level of activities: national

Thematic field of activities: management of the forest area and its resources (Forest management, Tending operations in young stands, Timber sale) and Forest regeneration (Ecological reconstruction, Pest control, Protected areas and biodiversity conservation, Wildlife management and hunting, Trout farms and fishing in freshwater, Silvo-tourism, Forest research and management planning, Breeding and improving of thoroughbred horses

National Forest Administration, Romania



National Forest Administration activities:

- to implement the national forest strategy in state forests;
- to ensure the integrity, preservation and sustainable development of the state owned forest stock;
- to sustainable manage the state forest areas;

- to manage on a contractual basis non-state forest areas, afforested pastures or shelterbelts;
- to soundly use timber and non timber forest products including management of the hunting and fishing areas allocated by law;
- to deliver forest specific public services;
- to act as National Horse Breeding Authority and preserve the genetic patrimony of the Romanian thoroughbred horses.

Perifereia Epeirou
Region of Epirus

Country: Greece

Geographic level of activities: regional

Thematic field of activities: protection and promotion of natural, environmental and cultural assets, sustainable development of rural areas and the strengthening the tourist activity

Mountain areas cover 74.2% of the total area of the region and it has an abundance of rivers, lakes and lagoons, extensive forests and unique flora and fauna. The flora in Epirus is one of the richest in Greece, not only because of its diversity but also due to the existing rare species. The mountainous area is dominated by the Pindus massive, where the homonymous national park is located. The region includes a considerable number of nature protected areas: 31 Natura 2000 and a Ramsar site (Amvrakikos Gulf).

This region has a lot of development potential as regards green tourism while being the least visited Greek destination, as such it will also largely benefit from increased territorial identity and promotion of new economic activities.

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Slovenská agentúra životného prostredia
Slovak Environmental Agency



Country: Slovakia

Geographic level of activities: national, international

Thematic field of activities: sustainable, regional and rural development, environmental education, renewable energy sources, nature and landscape protection, planning and management

The Slovak Environmental Agency is a professional organization of the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic with nationwide scope of powers, which focus on the environment protection and landscape planning in accordance with principles of sustainable development. SEA consists of the Headquarters in Banská Bystrica and four specialised centres with nationwide scope of powers:

- Centre of Environmental Sciences and Informatics
- Centre of Natural and Energy Resources Planning
- Centre of Landscape Creation and Environmental Education
- Centre of Waste Management and Environmental Management

Naturpark Soelktaeler
Soelktaeler Nature Park GmbH



Country: Austria

Geographic level of activities: local, regional, national

Thematic field of activities: protection, education, recreation and regional development

The Soelktaeler Nature Park GmbH, one of the Austria's largest Nature Parks, is located in the eastern Alps in Styria. As such the activities of the Park incl. implementation of conservation projects, implementation of tourist development concepts and to give support to the 4 Nature Park schools. Since 2004, the Park has worked to enhance the natural value/identity among the population, where nature should be considered, not as an isolated concept, but within a landscape where to live and work. The Park is also working on an initiative together with 15 other Parks to preserve/promote the species-rich landscape/assets through the valorisation of the many local products of the territory.

IPA Partners

Ministarstvo graditeljstva i prostornog uređenja HNŽ/K
Ministry of Civil Engineering and Physical Planning of HNC



Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina

Geographic level of activities: regional

Thematic field of activities: planning and development, establishing the conditions for the interior design objects relevant to the country, regulation on local land use including zoning, monitoring in construction operations, housing policy, laws and regulations, decision in the second instance administrative procedure for appeals in its field

A part of Ministry of Civil Engineering and Physical Planning HNC is also Department of Planning and Environmental Protection, whose mission is:

- planning, programming, design, use, evaluation and protection of areas and measures for their realization
- development of planning and urban development and technical documentation, except for transactions that are

made within the scope of the law of the Federation and municipalities

- making the country physical plan
- preparation of construction land

Opština Pljevlja
Municipality of Pljevlja



Country: Montenegro

Geographic level of activities: local

Thematic field of activities: sustainable, regional and rural development, environmental education, renewable energy sources, nature and landscape protection, planning and management

The Municipality of Pljevlja is the local authority that governs the town with 35.000 inhabitants and total area of 1.346 km², it is the third largest municipality in Montenegro. As the local authority it is undertaking all activities to provide proper living conditions for all inhabitants as well as to enhance the sustainable socio-economic development of the region.

Municipality of Pljevlja, Montenegro



Green Mountain Newsletter is intended for project partners and project target groups. It appears twice yearly for the project duration in an email circulation.

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