



Lifelong Learning Programme 2007-2013  
Leonardo da Vinci, Multilateral Projects Transfer of Innovation  
PROMOTING NATURE BY TRAINING NATURE INTERPRETERS

# NATURE AND LANDSCAPE INTERPRETATION

Project Newsletter No. 2, November 2009

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## Thank you

*Dear project partners, co-workers, authors, photographers and all others who helped us to conclude the project, we would like to thank you for all your help, expertise, your moral support and the precious time you devoted to this project.*

*Now, as the project is completed, our work really starts. We are looking forward to carry out the first nature and landscape guide training with your support in the following year.*

*Stanka Dešnik  
Goričko landscape park*



*»The project results are a trainer's handbook and a workbook for participants. The handbook is primarily meant for the trainers and offers a comprehensive set of material dealing with nature and landscape interpretation in an interdisciplinary way. The workbook or portfolio is meant for participants of nature and landscape guide training. It comprises basic theory, exercises and practical cases that will support the participants step by step to become nature and landscape guides.«*

*Dr. Gregor Torkar*

## Project results

The project aimed at developing a training programme for nature and landscape guides focused on interpretation skills, establishing a pool of trainers and exploring possibilities for sustaining training in the future.

A training needs' analysis carried out in Slovenia confirmed the need. Respondents welcomed the initiative to develop nature interpretation training. The results of the needs' analysis and good practice examples from the partner countries were considered when preparing the training curricula. The training programme comprises four modules with a total of 77 hours.

Training is aimed at all those who wish to raise awareness of the visitors about the importance of nature and landscape conservation. Due to different levels of knowledge, experience and formal education of training participants, the training material covers a variety of topics. The focus of the programme is on gathering basic knowledge and skills through practical work.

Training materials have been prepared by a number of Slovene experts covering nature conservation, adult learning, forestry, landscape architecture, ethnology, recreation and healthy nutrition, working with people with special needs, marketing and interpretation. These experts also represent the basic pool of trainers who will implement the training in the future.

A partner network created during project implementation creates a sound basis for introduction of the training at a national level. Partnerships created with institutions and individuals were strengthened and prove that the right way was chosen.

*Nataša Moršič  
Goričko landscape park*





*Stanka, Nataša and Mojca*



*Participants at the press conference*

## At the closing conference, participants were interested in...

On Tuesday, the 10th of November 2009, a press conference was held in Murska Sobota. This was the last event before completion of a two-year project. Stanka Dešnik, the project manager, and two members of the project team, Mojca Makovec Haložan from The Centre for Health and Development and Nataša Morsič from the Goričko Landscape Park presented the project activities and results to the media, partners, and other participants.

The project team answered questions about the project tangible results, about the differences between guiding regular visitors from guiding persons with special needs and about the next steps in formalisation of the certified training for nature and landscape guides. The presentation of the nature and landscape topics was done in an interactive way. The participants were invited to interpret the project logo.

After the conference the participants were invited to the presentation and tasting of a healthy meal. The meal was prepared from ingredients produced by the local producers. Namely, the promotion of a healthy life style was one of the project objectives. For the nature and landscape guide, fulfilment of this objectives starts with getting to know local food and local producers.

For information about the project and its follow up activities please contact Nataša Moršič or Stanka Dešnik on the phone no. +386 (02) 551 88 64 or send an e-mail [natasa.morsic@goricko.info](mailto:natasa.morsic@goricko.info) or [stanka.desnik@goricko.info](mailto:stanka.desnik@goricko.info).

*Gregor Domanjko  
Goričko landscape park*



## The European Green Belt – an Opportunity for Man and Nature

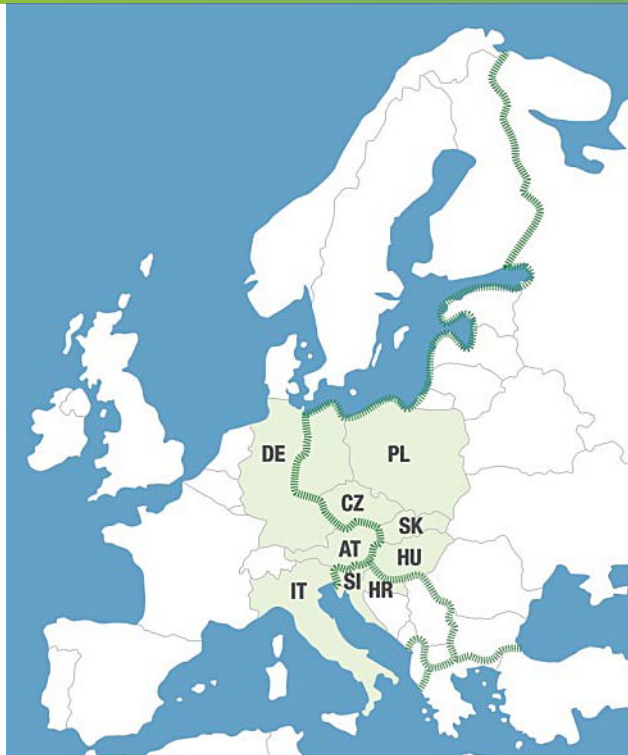
The 3rd Pan-European meeting and international conference »The European Green Belt – an Opportunity for Man and Nature« was held in Linz, the European capital of Culture 2009, from the 21st October to 24th October 2009. The meeting was attended by the founders of the European Green Belt initiative that connects governmental and nongovernmental institutions of 24 countries of border regions along the former Iron Curtain, running from the Barents Sea in the north, to the Black Sea in the south.

Soon after the Fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989, a small group of German environmentalists initiated conservation of the most important natural habitats for biodiversity by following the course that had been in large sections part of the former east-western border. In 2004 the European Green Belt initiative was founded and was offered full support by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The vision of the initiative is to preserve the backbone of an ecological network that runs along 12,500 km, connecting some of the most important habitats for biodiversity in Europe and direct activities of the cross border regions in nature conservation and sustainable development in order to meet expectations of nature and man friendly coexistence.

The conference was attended by Slovenian and Goričko Landscape Park representatives, Ms. Stanka Dešnik and Mr. Gregor Domanjko. A presentation of their project on »Promoting Nature by Training Nature Interpreters« was held to the audience of the conference.

Ms. Liana Geidezis presented her project on »Experience Green Belt« which has been running in four German federal border regions. The project is supported by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) with the main aim of implementing measures for nature, culture and Green Belt history experience supported presentation, and at the same time, conserving precious natural habitats. A part of their activities in the project focuses on training of certified Green Belt guides.

For more information on Green Belt activities on the project of »Erlebnis Gruenes Band« (Experience Green Belt) we would like to invite you to visit our web pages: [www.europeangreenbelt.org](http://www.europeangreenbelt.org) or [www.erlebnisgruenesband.de](http://www.erlebnisgruenesband.de).



Green Belt



Stanka Dešnik



*Liana Geidezis*

*»In order to add value to the region's natural potentials through planned tourism activities, it is meaningful and necessary that, in addition to sign posting, provision of maps and tour proposals, targeted hiking programmes and excursions are developed in cooperation with the certified nature and landscape guides.*

*At the Nature Park Centre Obere Saale-Sormitz in the Nature Park Thuringer Schiefergebirge, which is part of the Green Belt area in Germany, twenty nature and landscape guides were trained and certified for the first time in 2006. On the basis of this experience, other profiles were trained, such as "border guides" (nature guides on the Green Belt) who focus on the interpretation of the Green Belt. The training material and the teaching plan were developed, tested and adapted within one project, and are therefore available for users in other regions. The services of certified nature and landscape guides for the Green Belt area were well accepted by visitors, tourists and the local population. They provide an opportunity to learn about the different aspects of nature, culture and history on the Green Belt.«*



*Mr. Lee Dudley*

*The coordinator of the Green Belt at the IUCN*

*»In the Green Belt border regions life for flora and fauna alike has been peaceful perhaps as a juxtapose to the human experience. In that time nature has flourished and now the people return carrying all the threats that come with us. Fortunately humans have a will to understand, interpret and adapt. Nature education guides can be the oil in that process of understanding, sharing and educating.*

*This is where local economies can really benefit from sustainable tourism developing new opportunities from natural assets and balancing this with the unique values of landscape and nature, but importantly too local guides have the right cultural background and have a feel for both the place and history.«*





## Man and heritage shake hands

»*Ab uno disce omnes! - From one emerges all!*« exclaimed Vergil, the famous Roman poet, who did not only create a powerful poetical verse, but expressed one of the basic truths of living and probably the most important maxima of the holistic approach of the understanding of the world. If we today, in our world, where man is getting more and more alienated from nature and nature is being dissected into its prime factors, approached masses with Vergil's wise saying, we would probably find us misunderstood. Who is ready to accept facts of the natural laws like the carrying capacity for example, as a necessary co-setter of social development? Unfortunately, our present educational, economical and political institutions do not provide us with a holistic approach yet. Just think how wrong the wide spread conclusion that clean air, fertile soil and drinking water are unlimited natural resources is. However our heritage is one: even if divided into natural and cultural – like a man is only one person: even if artificially understood as a result of nature or as a result of the society.

Time has come, when a man must reunite with his natural environment, since he alone and the isolation of culture from nature simply does not allow him to progress, and that goes for the individual as for the society. That is why unceasing and consistent interpretation of nature, by well prepared local interpreters, based on a holistic approach, is necessary to raise the level of education and awareness among all people. Thus it must be clear that we cannot talk about developing sustainable tourism within Goričko Landscape Park without emphasizing its natural rachis (habitat diversity, ecosystem characteristics) and typical landscape elements. The process of education and rising awareness is therefore a regular star in the sky covering our park.

Big thanks to all who made the project possible and especially for the successful realization of the project – I am keeping my fingers crossed that others will follow soon.

*Dr. Bernard Goršak*  
A.m. director of the Goričko landscape park



## Project partners



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

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