

Biotourism Innovative Practices

New Dimensions for Development Prespa & Korçë

5-7 October 2013
Pyli Conference Center / Prespa



The IPA Cross-Border Programme
Greece - Albania
2007-2013
FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD TO PARTNERSHIP

The Project is co-funded by the European Union
and by National Funds of Greece & Albania
under the IPA Cross-Border PROGRAMME "Greece - Albania 2007-2013"



SHOQATA
E BIOLOGËVE
TË SHQIPËRISË



QARKU I KORÇES



Innovative Practices in Biotourism New Dimensions for Development, Prespa–Korçë 5–7 October 2013

Conference Center of Pyli, Prespa/GR

The project on **Innovative Practices in Biotourism** addresses the need for a coordinated economic cooperation between Greece and Albania. The aim of the project is to promote **sustainable economic growth** by further expanding cooperation between the two countries in joint business initiatives to support the remote local communities of **Prespa** and **Korçë**. The project is funded by the **European IPA Cross Border Programme Greece–Albania 2007-2013** and by **national funds from both countries**.

The aim of the project is to develop a **common Biotourism product** of added value, to generate and promote **collaborative structures between entrepreneurs** and to support the **principles of biotourism**. A powerful tool in this direction will be the development of **bilateral tourism platform** that provides digital services such as e-learning, while Greek and Albanian companies will promote the comparative advantages of the cross–border region of **Prespa and Korçë**.

Through the implementation of innovative Biotourism practices, the two countries send a common message for the protection of the environment and natural resources as new prospects for growth.

Consortium Coordinators

Biopolitics International Organisation (BIO)

Consortium Partners

Biologists of Albania Organisation (ALB)

Erymanthos (GR)

Cultural Triangle of Prespa (GR)

Regional Council of Korçë (ALB)

The Project is co-funded by the European Union and by National Funds of Greece & Albania under the IPA Cross-Border PROGRAMME "Greece - Albania 2007-2013"



We thank the Prespa National Park Management Body for providing the conference venue and the Municipality of Prespa for its ongoing support.

PROGRAMME

Saturday, October 5, 2013

17.00 – 17.15 **Arrivals – Registrations**

17.15 – 19.15 **Conference Opening – Greetings**

Agni Vlavianos Arvanitis, President, Biopolitics International Organisation
Ioannis Peditotis, General Consul of Greece in Korçë, Official Representative of the Greek Embassy in Albania
Dashnor Dervishi, Ambassador of Albania to Greece
Apostolos Tziotzis, President, Tourism Company of Western Macedonia
Vasilis Tsepas, Mayor of Prespa
Yiannis Boutaris, Mayor of Thessaloniki
Landi Gushi, President, Regional Council of Korçë
Michalis Parlanis, President, Florina Hoteliers
Savvas Sopalidis, President, Chamber of Florina
Eythymios Bakas, Economist, f. General Secretary for Lifelong Learning
Gabriela Scheiner, President, Cultural Triangle of Prespa
Panayiotis Koliomichalis, MD, Director of the ENT Clinic, Hippocraton University Hospital

19: 45-20:30 **Cultural Exhibition**

21:00 **Reception Dinner**

Sunday, 6 October 2013

09.15 – 11.30 **Biotourism**

Coordinator

Agni Vlavianos Arvanitis, President, Biopolitics International Organisation

Biotourism and local government

Vasilis Tsepas, Mayor of Prespa

Yiannis Boutaris, Mayor of Thessaloniki

Landi Gushi, President, Regional Council of Korçë

Life and its preservation

Athanasios Karameris, Professor, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Dimitris Michailidis, Agrorama

Kliti Kallamata, Architect, Past for Future Foundation

Thodoris Sdroulias, Journalist, Representative of the European Biological Cities Network

Sotiris Vosdou, Civil Engineer, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

11.30 – 11.45 **Coffee Break**

Tourism and Cross-Border Cooperation

Coordinators

Eythymios Bakas, Economist, f. General Secretary for Lifelong Learning

Entela Pinguli, Director, Biologists of Albania

Biotourism and Cross-Border Cooperation

Vasileios Taktikos, Erymanthos Network

Nikos Stergiou, Pelekanos Cooperative

Orjeta Gliozheni, DEM Organisation

Panagiotis Valatidis, Prespa resident

11.45 – 13.30

Good Practices

Nikos Molvalis, President, Molyvos Tourism Association

Arian Gjura, Handicrafts and Skills from Lake Shkodra

Arjan Meroli, Examples from Lake Ohrid as a biosphere reserve

Prespa & Korçë cross-border tourism product - promotion and markets

Prespa business entrepreneurs in the tourism sector

Tassos Gousios, Alpha Marketing Founder, Air Maritime S.A & S. Larisa

Hotel Union Marketing Director

Stefanos Chatzimanolis, www.silverholidays.gr

13.30 – 15.00

Lunch Break

15:00 – 17:30

Horizontal partnerships for tourism development – discussion

Singing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between Prespa and Korçë

Press Conference

Agni Vlavianos Arvanitis, President, Biopolitics International Organisation

Entela Pinguli, Director, Biologists of Albania

Vasileios Taktikos, Erymanthos

Gabriela Scheiner, Director, Cultural Triangle of Prespa

Helen Efraimiadou, Biopolitics International Organisation

Eythymios Bakas, Economist, f. General Secretary for Lifelong learning

Exhibition

***The Culture of Florina and Korçë
5–7 October 2013***

Panayiotis Kolliomichalis Collection

The cross border area between Greece and Albania, with its lakes, rivers, rich wildlife and abundant historical and cultural resources is a significant tourism destination. The exhibition features geophysical and political maps of the greater area, as well as photographs and postcards connecting the past to the present.

History and Culture in Prespa

Historical backdrop – *The Prespa region in antiquity and in the Byzantine and Ottoman periods*

20th Century history – *Balkan Wars – Treaty of Bucharest, First World War, Second World War, Breakup of Yugoslavia*

Cultural heritage – *Prespa's history in postcards and photographs – Korçë and the littoral areas – Florina and the littoral areas – Monastirion and littoral areas (Bitola)*

Cultural points of interest – *The Monastic State of Great Prespa (hermitages, churches, monasteries by the lake) – Byzantine Churches – Trade fairs – Fishing boats – Fishing methods – Clothing – Family photographs – Architecture*

The region today in postcards – *The Greek and Albanian Prespa region – Cultural events*

A special thanks to the following local participants:

Dana Paraskevopoulou, Painter

Panayiotis Stergiou, Painter

Worldwide Association of Prespa Locals

Music selection: Fanis Mavroudis

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