

OUR WAY: STEPS TAKEN IN THE REGION OF VRATSA

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WHERE DID WE START FROM?



- Operational programme “Regions in Growth ”2014-2020
- Integrated Territorial Development strategy – North-west region 2021-2027

STRENGTHS

- The management plan of the Nature park “Vrachanski Balkan” will be implemented in the next 10 years and guarantees sustainability.
- The adoption of the management plan guarantees financial provision for the implementation of the planned activities on the construction of green ways.
- The transformation of „Botev road“ into a green way will lead to an improvement of the economic situation in the region and a more sustainable economic environment.

WEAKNESSES

- The activities of preparing the Management Plan turned out to be directly related to the political situation in the country.
- Too slow, bureaucratic system in the country.
- Losing 2 years to speed the transition to the new Programming period 2021-2027 and to the Recovery Plan instrument



WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?



TOP 3

Do not underestimate the political situation and to delegate the responsibility for approval rights to the lower director level.

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Constant connection and discussions with the stakeholders and monitoring the process for the progress of the planned activities

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Engaging senior officials/Authorities to ensure the adoption of strategic documents



WHAT HAVE WE DONE?



1 Preparation of a Terms of Reference for revision the Management plan of the Vrachanski Balkan Nature Park

- ✓ **Preparation of an assignment for updating the Management Plan of Vrachanski Balkan Nature Park**
 - Sent letter to Executive Forest Agency for starting procedure - Done
 - Delay, because of the complicated political situation and reorganization of the Ministry of Agriculture and forest
 - Request to prepare Integrated plan for management of Vrachanski Balkan Nature park and Nature 2000-Done

- ✓ **Preparation of an assignment for equalization of the boundaries of Vrachanski Balkan Nature Park**
 - The assignment is ready

- ✓ **Preparation of an assignment for Integrated Management Plan of Vrachanski Balkan Nature Park**
 - Coordination of the assignment with the Executive Forest Agency
 - Approval of the assignment by the Ministry of Environment and Water
 - The implementation of the tasks will be monitored by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Vratsa in cooperation with Vrachanski Balkan Nature Park.





WHAT HAVE WE DONE?



2 Revision of the Management plan of the Vrachanski Balkan Nature Park including Botev road as a Green Way

The main tasks in this activity were:

1. Selection of a subcontractor for the preparation of an updated management plan. The procedure were carried out by the Executive Forest Agency, according to Bulgarian legislation.
2. Development of a integrated management plan for the Vrachanski Balkan Nature Park by including Botev road as a Green Way. The activity includes conducting public condemnations
3. Submission of the Plan for approval to the MoEW
4. Adoption of the MP by a decision of the Council of Ministers.

The Directorate of the Vrachanski Balkan Nature Park monitoring the implementation of the tasks described above in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Vratsa.





WHAT HAVE WE DONE?



3 Botev Road - integrated project on the territory of Vratsa District in the new programming period 2021-2027.

PLAN FOR INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF VRATSA MUNICIPALITY 2021 – 2027

PRIORITY 1: ACCELERATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Measure 1.3.

Creation and promotion of integrated tourism products

Project idea 1 The development of integrated tourist products and routes

PRIORITY 3: INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF REGION

Measure 3.4 Promoting tourism

Project 1 Development of the tourist green way, related to the Botev route

Project 2 Vratsa - part of Eurovelo 6

Opportunities for development and improvement of the route

Within the integrated project for the so-called Botev GREEN way is envisaged:

- Construction of a walking and cycling route as well as horse riding.
- Construction of places for rest and short-term recreation
- Restoration and renovation of old monuments;
- Preservation of cultural and historical heritage
- Supporting family local business initiatives as well as regional economic environment.





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NEXT STEPS

1

Cooperation with DPP Vrachanski Balkan/Municipalities/Regional Authorities in the process of adopting the Park Management Plan.

2

Subsequent participation and consultations in the transformation of of Botev Road as a green route in the "Vrachanski Balkan" nature park as well as the expansion of the EuroVelo 6 corridor, which will stimulate the development and sustainability of the regional economy.

3

Cooperation in building a common vision for the Botev road greenway and engaging all interested municipalities and the Park Directorate.

THANK YOU!

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