

EUROPEAN WALKING ROADS-FOR SUSTAINABLE, GREEN TOURISM

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***Abstract:** In this work ,activities, which create the conditions for development of ecological, mountain, rural and others sustainable tourism, in the territory of Bor – East Serbia, are described, by using the advantages, which are enabled by European walking roads, especially E4- European road, which leads through Serbian territory.*

It is specificaly described the way of making this road route and logging potentials or rural/village tourism on and around the route of European Walking road E4, in Bor's territory.

***Keywords:** Europe, Serbia, sustainable tourism, walking roads.*

INTRODUCTION

Under the term European Walking roads is meant a net of long walking paths, which are going through almost the whole Europe and leads exclusively through nature and near culturally and historical monuments, preserved natural spaces, spas, lakes etc..

European Walking roads are primarily intended for mountaineering, tourists and others who wants to walk a certain distance, enjoy in nature and learn about the specifics of a particular area.

European Walking roads are Formed by European Walking Association (ERA), which defined the 12 European Walking Routes so far, with the lenght which exceeds 55.000 km.

European roads are of great importance for the development of sustainable tuorism, especially ecological, mountain, rural and others. Mountaineering societies are now most concerned with these roads, but they have to be unter the national and local authorities, especially when they are defined through realisation of national and local strategies of tourism development.

Walking Roads in Serbia

Serbia became a part of European Walking Roads Association in 2007., along with Mountaineering Association of Serbia. Till that moment, Mountaineering Association of Serbia, has strived to accurately mark and edit the tracks of European Walking Roads through Serbia, with also two more European Walking Roads E4 and E7 (picture 1a and 1b), through other local mountaineering associations and ecological organisations.

European Walking Road E4-goes through East part of Serbia. It starts near Kanjiža, then it leads over Carska spa, Deliblatska peščara, Belgrade, Đerdap, through city of Bor to mountain Rtanj, Stara planina, canyon Jerme and from there it goes to Bulgaria.

European Walking Road E7-goes through West part of Serbia. It starts near Palić, than it leads over Bač, Novi Sad, Zaslavice, Rajac and Zlatibor to Sopotnica, and than over Kopaonik, Djavolja Varoš and Vlasina to the mountain Dukat and from there it goes to Bulgaria.



Picture 1a

Rouge sketch of European Walking roads through Serbia



Picture 1b

More precise sketch of European Walking roads through Serbia



Picture 2 Route E4 in Bor's territory

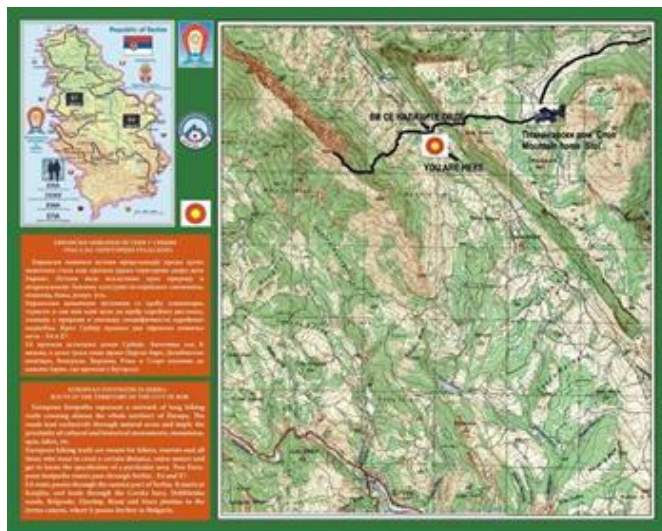
In East Serbia ,E4 comes in near Golubac and goes out on Stara Planina. In Bor territory it comes in over the mountain Deli Jovan, goes over Stol and Veliki Krš, Lake of Bor, Brestovac spa, Lazar's cave and canyon and over the Malinik goes over on Boljevac territory to Rtanj.

From Lazar's cave, one part separates and goes to the Felix Rommulliana archeological site on Zaječar territory. From there it comes back to Rtanj where it reconnects again with the route which goes over Malinik. There are special paths to Gornjan Plateau, Crni Vrh mountain, Dubašnica Plateau; rgotina hill etc. (picture 2)

Marking the route on the territory of Bor

Marking routes of European Walking Roads is very important because they go through nature- mountains, woods, meadows, they go over mountains routes, through fields, woods, villages and some roads with no category and rarely they meet main roads. In that point of intersection boards are set up with contents and marks which are prescribed by Special Rules of Serbian Mountaineering Associations (picture 3a and 3b).

In territory of Bor, there are five boards on points of intersections, but it needs at least five more. Between the boards through woods and over the mountains, there are mountaineering tags which are white colour instead of yellow, like marks of european walking road.



Picture 3a.
Prescribed boards which marks
european walking roads



Picture 3b.
The look of the board
at the foothill
of the mountain Stol

Associations Eko Baština, Village and Young Researches of Bor, conceived and started Realization of " Bor's Green Oases" project, for the sake of marking the route E4- European Walking road in Bor territory, and also for the sake of logging accomodation conditions and provision of tourist services near and on the route. The results of this project should be:

- R1: The users of this route of European Walking Road E4(local and foreign) have comfortable and safety marked ambient for walking, and also have good conditions for resting and staying in nature resorts of Bor
- R2: We have created initial prerequisites for further development of local rural, etno and ecological tourism which is based on resources of European Walking Route E4
- R3: A significant number of rural and other households is ready to provide accomodation and to offer tourism services. Their special training course will be provided by a special project.

Tourist valuation

Trekking or Walking tourism is one of the most common part of tourism. Hiking is the form of walking with specific purpose of research

and enjoyment in natural beauties. Trakking is multi-day hiking along mountains and rural landscapes. Trakking can be combined with others activities- caves exploration, canyons exploration. First and second combination with other parts of eko tourism which includes countryside tourism gives so-called "Green tourism", which is based on preserved nature motives. Since it belongs to sustainable tourism it contribute preserving the nature and environment.

There are a lot of mountains on Bor's territory, and there are also preserved places of nature which surrounds the city and are so-called the green ring of Bor- some kind of counterbalance to Mine. The Mine is the black spot in ecology. Because of that, special attention is given in creating conditions for developing mountain, village and other parts of green tourism, for which there are good prerequisites.

Association of Bor's Young Explorers did a special survey of rural households in the area of mountain Stol and Veliki Krš, which was basic to develop a safety study of Stol. Survey participants showed great motivation for village tourism, with different activities, like producing healthy food, developing traditional and cultural manifestation.



Picture 4a.
Mountain Stol and its touristic potentials



Picture 4b and 4c.
The potentials of village tourism

CONCLUSION

Define exact route of European Walking Road E4, and to list rural households and the other buildings which can be used for accomodation.

Train rural households for giving various service according to principles of eco tourism, green economy.

Expand project of Bor's Green Oasis and complete route E4 on territory of Bor and expend it on the other cities.

Instal routs of European Walking Roads into Spacious plan of Serbia, as well as in regional and lokal spacious plans.

With national strategy of tourism expending as well as with local strategies and plans of expending tourism. It has to cover marking and creating conditions for bigger using of potentials of European Walking Roads.

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