



**IPA Cross-Border project "Una - Spring of Life"
(Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina)**

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About project

The project "Una - Spring of Life" has been chosen for co-financing within the IPA Cross-Border Programme Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina 2007-2013. The implementation of the project began in 2011.

Partners

- **The Zadar County**, Croatia
(it is a self-government regional unit, one of the seven Croatian coastal counties),
- **The Municipality of Bihać**, Bosnia and Herzegovina
(it is a self-government unit located in north-western part of Bosnia and Herzegovina),
- **The Municipality of Gračac**, Croatia
(it is the largest municipality in Croatia, located in the Zadar County),
- **Centre for the promotion of local development PLOD**, Bosnia and Herzegovina
(it is a civic association),
- **NATURA-JADERE**, Croatia
(it is a public institution for the management of protected areas in Zadar County),
- **Zadar County Development Agency – ZADRA**, Croatia,
- **Zadar County Tourist Board**, Croatia,
- **Una-Sana Canton Tourist Board**, Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- **Una Association**, Bosnia and Herzegovina (NGO).

Associates

- **The Lika-Senj County Development Agency – LIRA**, Croatia,
- **The Gračac Tourist Board**, Croatia.

The aim of the project is to jointly develop the Una Spring in Croatia and the Una Waterfalls and the Old Town of Ostrovica in the area of Martin Brod in Bosnia and Herzegovina as a part of the same, environmental- adopted joint tourism product through cross-border cooperation and pooling of various experiences of all stakeholders from the area of the upper course of the Una River.

The most important activities included the following:

- infructural works on location of the project (the construction of a wooden railing along the tourist footparh leading to the Una Spring and the renovation of tourism infrastructure by the Una Waterfall and the Old Town of Ostrovica in Martin Brod),
- preparing the "Strategy for the development of tourism in the cross-border region of the upper course of the Una River,

- cooperation of the local community with international stakeholders with the aim of protecting the nature and promoting the project,
- educational package for all stakeholders of the project, local community, civil society, and relevant institutions in the area of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina; organization of three types of educational workshops (ecological principles in tourism, the development of the rural tourism offer and conditions for living and working near protected natural values,
- promotional package for the joint tourism product and the results of the project; creating promotional materials such as tourist brochures, website, and study trip to both locations for regional travel agencies, hotel managers etc.

The River of Una and its surrounding areas

The river of Una springs in Croatia, in the part of the Zadar County, at 395,8 meters above sea level, and for the most part it flows through the north-west part of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Its 212,5 km long course). In order to preserve its natural beauty, wealth of biodiversity, cultural and historical heritage, in 2008 the upper course of the river of Una was named a national park of Bosnia and Herzegovina. For the best part of its course, the river of Una represents a border between the two countries, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.



National Park "Una"

Source: Nacionalni park Una, Galerija, www.nationalpark-una.ba (Sept, 26, 2015)



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The Spring of Una

The spring of Una is a fairy tale turquoise-coloured lake surrounded by forests and steep cliffs. In 1968 the lake and the canyon surrounding it, as well as 150 meters of downstream flow were named a protected hydrological monument of nature. The first Una waterfall is located some 10 meters from the spring. In 2007, the lake was explored by cave divers who participated in an international expedition. An Italian cave diver named Luigi Casati reached the depth of 205 m and took photographs of this natural phenomenon.

The Una Waterfalls in Martin Brod

Martin Brod is the first inhabited village in the area of the Una National Park through which the river runs. It is located at the exit from the two canyons, at the point where the Una tributary flows into the river of Una. With numerous tufa canals, fast currents, islands and a few waterfalls, this location is one of the most beautiful and attractive parts of the national park of the river of Una. The biggest waterfall on Una is located in this area.



National Park "Una" (The Una Waterfalls in Martin Brod)



The old town of Ostrovica

The fortification of Ostrovica is a large medieval building structure located on the hill above the small village of Ostrovica near Kulen Vakuf, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It consists of at least three recognizable historical layers. The medieval layer of the Old Town was built in 15th century upon the pre-historic gradina (fortified site), whose fortification walls are partially preserved. The gradina was protected by combination of the protective walls and steep rocks on the unapproachable South-east side. The almost permanent Ottoman threat to Ostrovica began after the fall of the medieval Kingdom of Bosnia in 1463. Still, the castle resisted until December 1523, as the Ottoman Turks conquered it. Its growth continued during the Ottoman period. The long period of Ottoman rule lasted until 1878. In that period the castle was enlarged and reinforced, serving as Ottoman military stronghold. In 1737, the fort was unsuccessfully besieged by the army of the Habsburg Empire. Today the fortification and its surrounding belongs to the Una National Park, being occasionally renovated in the past, and last reconstruction works had within this project.



Source: Nacionalni park Una, Galerija, www.nationalpark-una.ba (Sept, 26, 2015)



National Park "Una" (The old town of Ostrovica)

Expected results after implementation of the project

- improved cross-border tourism policy and management through increased cooperation and coordination of activities on both sides of the border;
- tourist infrastructure on locations, necessary for the development of the joint tourism product "Una - Spring of Life", built and improved;
- human capacities in tourism sector strengthened in the cross-border region and awareness of conditions for living and working in/or near protected natural values increased and public awareness raised regarding the newly developed joint tourism product "Una – Spring of Life".