

The Gate of Gornje Podunavlje, NGO Podunav, Backi Monostor

The main goal of the project is the sustainable development of the entire region through ecotourism and rural tourism development, which includes the engagement of the whole local community, bringing social and economic well-being through nature and landscape preservation. The connection of local culture and historic heritage that is in harmony with nature, and its promotion as an ecotourist and rural tourist destination, provides a social, cultural and aesthetic sustainability. That also provides a chance for a new quality development through new ways of preserving nature and traditions and new jobs for local people. The project is a partnership between local and regional institutions, including the non-governmental and civil sector – that is, the local community.



The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe conferred a special mention of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention for the 3rd Session 2012-2013 for "Contributing to European ideals" to the authors of the project for bringing attention to the urban landscape as a common good. The location of the "Gate of Gornje Podunavlje" project on the banks of the Danube in the historic region of Backi Monostor has enabled some particularly interesting cross-border and multi-ethnic objectives to be pursued. The attention given to the Serb, Croat, Hungarian, Roma and Šokci heritages with a view to a shared European identity was particularly appreciated. This project reflects a public commitment to better economic and social well-being and, at the same time, to the preservation of the character of the landscapes. Within a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, this project takes a well-adapted integrated approach. The development of cross-border ecotourism, in conjunction with a return to agricultural production geared to traditional diets, is helping reduce the numbers of young people leaving the countryside.