

NATURE PARK MEDVEDNICA

is one of the 8 European Protected Areas selected within the project **CENTRAL EUROPE ECO-TOURISM: TOOLS FOR NATURE PROTECTION** to test innovative governance systems for sustainable tourism management.

VALUES

Nature Park Medvednica stretches over 17938 ha and is located in the immediate vicinity of the capital city of Croatia - Zagreb. The basic phenomenon of the Park are natural and well preserved forests which cover 81% of the Park's area. The whole area of the Park is a part of the ecological network Natura 2000 (HR2000583) with 20 target species and 8 target habitat types. Along with ecosystem services, Medvednica offers more than 70 hiking trails, nine biking trails, few educational trails, many chapels and small churches, two hotels, 11 mountain lodges, eight restaurants, and a ski resort where FIS world ski cup races are held. Main tourist attractions are the Veternica cave, Zrinski mine, and the medieval fortress Medvedgrad.



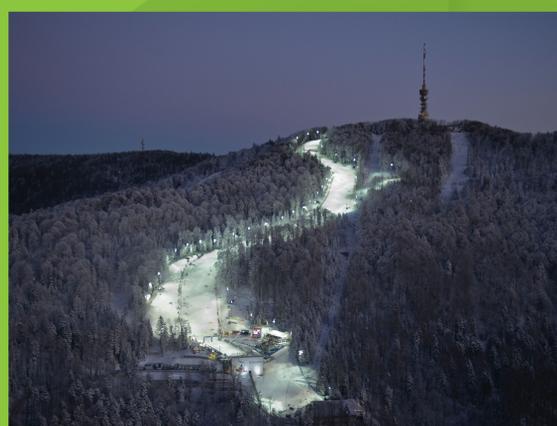
CHALLENGES

More than a quarter of Croatia's population (1.2 million) lives in the Park's surroundings. Since it is located in the immediate vicinity of Zagreb, the Park is exposed to many pressures and threats, but nevertheless represents a very valuable area of significant biodiversity. An estimated annual number of visitors to the Park is more than a million. Medvednica is traditionally very visited, especially on weekends during spring and autumn, and in winter during the ski season. As the most of the infrastructure is located

in the central part of Medvednica, a limited number of parking space in the Park creates a lot of pressure on transport. An excessive number of vehicles represents a problem because of ecological, aesthetic and safety reasons, and has a negative impact on the experience of staying in the Park.

CEETO ACTIVITIES

Nature Park Medvednica represents a pilot area within the CEETO project, whose main aim is to create tools for reducing visitor pressure on the peak zone/ski access zone. The existing challenges considering visitor infrastructure include developing of monitoring scheme for ski resort and solutions for traffic jams on accessing roads during winter ski season and summer weekends.



For more information on Nature Park Medvednica visit:
www.pp-medvednica.hr

WWW.INTERREG-CENTRAL.EU/CEETO



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