

XII ECST NETWORK MEETING

**16 – 18 May**

**Bled, Slovenia**

With visits to Triglav National Park (SLO) & Parco Naturale Prealpi Giulie (IT) in  
the Transboundary Ecoregion Julian Alps.



Partner of the Triglav National park for  
sustainable mobility and responsible  
visiting of the Triglav National Park.



**Visitor monitoring in  
Protected Areas:**

a key element of integrated  
Protected Areas Management

## PROGRAMME

### European Charter for Sustainable Tourism

### 12<sup>th</sup> Network Meeting

16 - 18 May 2023

**Location:** Infocenter Triglavska Roža Bled, Ljubljanska cesta 27,  
4260 Bled, Slovenia

**Managing visitors** in Protected Areas is becoming more and more complex. Visitor numbers seem to be **growing unlimitedly** all over Europe, as well as the number of **new recreational forms**, that irrupt season after season. This rise in visitor numbers and activities takes a toll not only on the natural environment but also on the local communities and visitors' own experience.

Protected Areas managers are confronted with the challenging decision of **how to best protect the natural environment while not compromising the visitor experience.**

Thus, good **visitor monitoring systems and tools**, – both in terms of quality and

quantity – are essential for making sound decisions on visitor management.

Moreover, we will have the opportunity to discover directly from the field how unique **Slovenia's National Park and oldest Biosphere Reserve** in the country is managing the rapid and dramatic rise in visitor numbers. In the space of eight years, visitation in Triglav National Park has increased more than five-fold, which has created several environmental, nature conservation, and sociological issues.

**Besides, there will be plenty of opportunities to network and share experiences, learn from each other, and get new ideas to take back to your areas, including an "open mic" session**, in which

you can bring a 5 minutes presentation of your project, ideas for projects, looking for partners, or just raising general sustainable tourism questions you want advice on from the audience. Furthermore, we will have the unique opportunity to understand how

**transboundary cooperation** is made possible regarding managing visitors and many other topics between the **Triglav National Park (SLO) and Parco Naturale Prealpi Giulie (IT) in the Transboundary Ecoregion Julian Alps**, a Transboundary Sustainable Destination.

## Programme

### Arrival day - Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May

<b>10:00 – 12:00</b>	<b>PRESS CONFERENCE</b>
<b>16:00 – 19:00</b>	<b>FIRST REGISTRATION AT THE CONFERENCE VENUE</b> <b>Infocenter Triglavska roža Bled, Ljubljanska cesta 27, 4260 Bled</b>

### Day 1 - Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May

#### **Visitor monitoring in Protected Areas: a key element of integrated Protected Areas Management**

<b>07:30</b>	<b>REGISTRATION</b>
<b>09:00</b>	<b>FORMAL OPENING</b>
<b>10:00</b>	<b>The European Charter for Sustainable Tourism (ECST) in Protected Areas. Trends and updates.</b> <b>Carol Ritchie</b> , Executive Director & <b>Teresa Pastor</b> , Policy and Project Manager, EUROPARC Federation.
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Visitor Monitoring Methodology in Triglav National Park – challenges and opportunities</b> <b>Majda Odar</b> , Head of Information and Education Service, Triglav National Park, Slovenia

<b>11:00</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
<b>11:30</b>	<b>United States National Park Service Approach for Estimating Visitor Use</b> <b>Dr. Pamela Ziesler</b> , Program Coordinator for Visitor's Use Statistics for the National Park Service, USA
<b>12:15</b>	<b>Using Data Fusion to improve Visitor Monitoring in Natural Area</b> <b>Samuel Chevrier</b> , Market Leader for Eco-counter, France
<b>13:00</b>	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
<b>14:30</b>	<b>Carrying capacity and implementation challenges in Vintgar Gorge, a highly visited area</b> <b>Aleš Zdešar</b> , Triglav National Park, Slovenia; responsible for carrying capacity studies and implementation in Visitor Management of Natural Monuments
<b>15:45</b>	<b>STUDY VISIT TO VINTGAR GORGE</b> <b>(Bus trip + 2 hour hike with stops/hiking shoes are required)</b> <b>On-site discussion of the visitor management implementation measures - restrict access to natural assets or individual parts of the national park, based on carrying capacity assessment of the area</b>
<b>19:30</b>	<b>DINNER IN THE LOCAL GUEST HOUSE</b>

## Day 2 - Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May

### Special Field Workshops Day + Discovering the Transboundary Sustainable Destination, the Transboundary Ecoregion Julian Alps.

#### **SPECIAL FIELD WORKSHOPS DAY**

Participants need to select one field workshop. Each workshop will take place in a different location. Hiking shoes are required.

#### **Option 1. Visitor monitoring and how collected data can help in the future management of the Protected Area.**

Guided tour to Soča Valley, difficulties and challenges of the overcrowded summer season

#### **Option 2. Transboundary cooperation and its challenges in sustainable tourism.**

Guided tour from Triglav National Park to Nature Park Julian Prealps with stops at natural sites and visitor center in Resia

### Option 1

Visitor monitoring and how collected data can help in the future management of the Protected Area

Guided tour to Soča Valley, difficulties and challenges of the overcrowded summer season

08:00	<b>DEPARTURE FROM INFOCENTER TRIGLAVSKA ROŽA BLED</b>
09:30	<b>Stop on Vršič Pass with a short introduction to the topic - Visitor monitoring and data collection</b>
11:00	Hike along the <b>Soča Trail</b> from the source of the Soča river to the Triglav National Park Info center Dom Trenta
	<b>Field Workshop: Soča Trail as a tool for directing the tourist flow in upper Soča valley</b> Soča Trail is a 25 km long trail connecting the source of the Soča river and the town of Bovec. The trail is also a part of the Long-distance Alpe Adria Trail, which runs from Grossglockner (A) through Slovenia to Muggia (I)
	<b>LUNCH ON THE WAY</b>

### Option 2

Transboundary cooperation and its challenges in sustainable tourism

Guided tour from Triglav National Park to Nature Park Julian Prealps with stops at natural sites and visitor center in Resia (IT)

07:30	<b>DEPARTURE FROM INFOCENTER TRIGLAVSKA ROŽA BLED TO RESIA WITH STOPS ON THE WAY</b>
	<b>Coffee break in Info center in Resia and introduction to the topic</b>
11:45	<b>Field Workshop: Together For Nature - Transboundary and ECST - benefits and challenges</b>

13:00	<b>Typical Resian lunch</b>
14:15	<b>DEPARTURE TO TRENTA</b>
<b>GATHERING OF BOTH GROUPS IN TRANSBOUNDARY INFO CENTER ECOREGION JULIAN ALPS</b>	
16:30	<b>COFFEE BREAK AT INFO CENTER DOM TRENTA</b>
16:45	Presentation of conclusions of the workshops
17:15	<b>OPEN MIC</b> - presentation of best practices from ECST members An <i>Open Mic session</i> where you can bring your questions. Case studies, project proposals, great work of your charter partners... anything you want to share. The floor is yours.
18:15	<b>TYPICAL FOOD FROM TRENTA VALLEY</b>
20:30	<b>DEPARTURE OF BOTH BUSES TO BLED</b>
22:00	<b>ARRIVAL TO BLED</b>

### Day 3 Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May

Field trip to Bohinj, representing one of the most sustainably, innovative areas in Julian Alps Biosphere Reserve. Special emphasis is given to sustainable tourism.

09:30	<b>DEPARTURE OF THE BUS FROM INFOCENTER TRIGLAVSKA ROŽA BLED</b>
10:30	<b>ARRIVAL AT RIBČEV LAZ, LAKE BOHINJ</b>

<b>Field Trip: Lake Bohinj</b>	
	A guided panoramic ride with a panoramic boat, an easy walk on the north part of Lake Bohinj with stops 3 hours of an easy hike
<b>10:45</b>	<b>ARRIVAL TO UKANC, LAKE BOHINJ</b>
<b>15:00</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>
<b>16:00</b>	<b>DEPARTURE OF THE BUS TO BLED</b>
<b>Free time in Bled</b>	
<b>19:30</b>	<b>CLOSING EVENT WITH DINNER - Infocenter Triglavska roža Bled</b>

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**Departure day Friday 19th May**

### **Departure day or International Wild Flower Festival**

For all who would like to stay in our area longer - you are very welcome to **International Wild Flower Festival - A paradise for flower lovers and botanical experts.**

19th May - 4th June 2023

The International Wild Flower Festival is a bouquet of botanical tours, events, and culinary experiences dedicated to wild plants, the floral wealth of Bohinj, and the local offer.

Festival events take place every year in May and June at various locations in Bohinj, which comprises 24 villages and covers an area of more than 300 km<sup>2</sup>

More about the Flower Festival and its program:

<https://www.bohinj.si/en/international-wild-flower-festival/>